Ross Dowson archives – correspondence – Year 1979

01_06 Letter to Ake Eriksson, Sweden, re: publishing his article in *Forward;* our activity in labor party municipal politics; NDP leader bought off with post of symbolic head of state; China and Iran

01_07 Letter to Sam (G., Montreal?), re: postal union leader Parrot`s exemplary leadership, critique of some new books

02_19 ***Document: Socialist Rights Defence Fund press release***, re: Krever Commission asked to require RCMP to turn over record of harassment of trade union and socialist movements

03_07 Letter to Bryan Palmer, Queen's U., accepting speaking engagement

03_10 SRDF leaflet: Newspaper clippings "Security Service used secret medical data," "Mounties own up to phony letters"

03_13 Letter to Ron Holt, Montreal, re: the SRDF slander suit against the RCMP now involving violation of confidentiality of health records

03_14 Letter to Jerry Houle, Surrey BC, re: RCMP forced to admit new ''dirty tricks'' against the Trotskyist movement

03_19 ***Document: SRDF press release***, re: Attorney-General of Ontario asked to initiate charges against RCMP for violating the confidentiality of health records

03_31 Letter to CBC Access, re: need meeting of some sponsors of SRDF but need a production commitment and firm proposition

04_03 Letter to Ron Holt, Montreal, re: RD able to make an extended speech on his ideas to Krever Commission

04_05 ***Document: SRDF circular to it`s large group of supporters***, re: testimony of former solicitor-general Allmand on the broad RCMP definition of ''subversive'' focussing against peaceful leftists

04_11 Letter to Harry (S.), Newfoundland, re: RD and Harry Kopyto visit Keable Commission in Quebec; left press boycott of campaign

04_12 ***Document: SRDF press release***, re: RCMP plant role in Quebec Ligue Socialiste Ouvrière, and blackmail of gay comrade

04_24 Note to self, re phone call from Harry (S.), Cornerbrook, re: his boyhood friend now in RCMP revealed to him the presence of an agent in the Toronto organization

04_99 ***Document: SRDF circular to supporters****, (repeat of press release of March 19, plus new information),* re: attempts by Ontario solicitor-general to get action against RCMP dismissed

05_02 Letter to Henry Milner, Montreal, re: enclosing RD`s edited version of his excellent interview which will be circulated

05_99 Letter to the editor (St. George NDP Assn. Riding Newsletter), Toronto, re: explaining error of a member`s wish to see party endorse capitalist system

06_14 ***Document: ''Policy submission to the Royal Commission of Inquiry into the Confidentiality of Health Records in Ontario, submitted by RD,"*** re: RCMP admission it used facts from Health records to commit acts of disruption in the LSA, the admitted ''mandate'' of RCMP against ''subversives,'' RCMP admitted issuing false statements; the RCMP must be publicly censured, the Ontario A-G should lay criminal charges; its ''mandate'' be reviewed, etc.

06_15 ***Document: Press release, re: announcing the ''Policy Submission"*** of June 14 to the Royal Commission, echoing the demand of a new book by Mann & Lee that the RCMP be abolished

06_17 +Letter to Friends (LSA): Camp tax bill received; amounts payable by lot owners; well water pump now working, cost covered by RD

06_19 ***Document: SRDF circular to supporters***, re: unlike stalled Keable Inquiry in Quebec, the SRDF suit against the RCMP forging ahead; asking for donations and new supporters

06_20 ***Article for the (Saskatchewan NDP)*** *Commonwealth****, ''Winnipeg General Sympathetic Strike:"*** a day-by-day account of general strike in Winnipeg, Manitoba, from May 15 to June 21, 1919 – 41 days; its support across Canada and the United States (file available in National Archives)

07_05 Letter to George Messenger, president CUPE Local 134, re: possibility some union members pressured by RCMP to open up confidential health records

07_05B Letter to Peter W. re: Early Trotskyist press on microfilm at Toronto and New York librairies

07_31 Letter on SRDF head to E. Mann and J.A. Lee re: their new book ''RCMP vs. the People;'' enclosing information provided to investigators of ''dirty tricks'' to the Krever Commission; inviting their support

08_09 Letter to Anne (D.), Ottawa, re: seeking her assistance in contacting various left-wing profs at Carleton U. and Ottawa U. to support and promote the SRDF

08_13 Letter to John Sewell, re: seeking his support for the SRDF

08_13B Notes to self, including a proposed NDP resolution on Quebec and notes on the resolution

08_99 *(Re: August-December, found in 1979)* Series of Forward Group mail bulletins; weekend at Camp Poundmaker, FG internal meetings; NDP convention caucuses

09_06 Letter to Anne (D.), Ottawa, re: Ottawa prof Levitt becoming a supporter of SRDF

09_12 ***Document: press release***: Dowson protests the inactivity of MacDonald Commission; urges it to act on exposé of RCMP violations of law six months ago

10_04 Letter to *Socialist Voice* and the RWL, re: their submission of names supporters of SRDF despite their total lack of journal coverage or support of the case

10_04B Letter to editors of *North American Anarchist* and the Anarchist Federation of Canada, re: noting an RCMP raid on a sympathizer and inviting them to document the case for the McDonald Commission

10_30 ***Document: SRDF press release,*** re: upcoming federal court judgement on the slander suit; RCMP admission of forging and circulating confidential health records; Law Union support for the SRDF; availability of parts of Royal Commission hearings

11_23 Circular letter to: officers of the Canadian labour movement, re: allegations of labour leaders participation in a secret RCMP-Labour committee

11_99 Article dated Nov/79 ‘’contribution to St. George Newsletter;’’ that the NDP riding respond to various artists` appeals that the copyright act be re-written

12_00 Undated flyer: ‘’Where the case stands as 1979 comes to a close;’’ genesis and brief history of the case, likely reaching the Supreme Court; Resolution on Justice adopted by the NDP Federal Convention including support for Andre Gunder Frank and Dowson

12_99 Undated introduction to an article by a N.S. reader, apparently not published, *(corrected and annotated by RD)* re: the N.S. Federation of Labor`s opposition to the N.S. ‘’Michelin Bill’’

January 6, 1979
121 Church St.,
Toronto

Ake Eriksson
Tornavagen 17A
223 63 Lund, Sweden
Dear comrade Ake;

Your letter with enclosure is dated December 12. Terrible that I am only now replying. I was toying with the idea of even putting a phomey date on my letter and trying to pass the buck on our poor mailing system. My delay in replying is without any good reason. Of course as with most persons like ourselves I have been busy but looking back over what I have been doing nothing as valueable and interesting as receiving yourletter and article. The other matters because they are right herehave despite me just established a sort of priority--a false one.

Your article is exactly what our paper needs. I turned it over to the comradex who were are all grooming as editor and he is very happy with it. Of course , as I am sure you expect there are a few modifications completely of a stylistic character that we would like to make. Unless you have kept a copy you will not even notice them. We are only now going to press after the federal by-elections the municipal elections and the annual election of officers meetings of the NDP riding associations Tonight I have an important meeting of our municipal politics NDP organization. It is important because we have just come through an experience of opportunistic politics with forces that are community oriented, militant but are opposed to labor party politics--ppxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx probably this is a long transcended period in Swedish labor experience. Despite our efforts to convince the NDP to run a full slate contesting the mayoralty xxxx in particlar,and in our riding (Ward 6) to not support or collaborate with an already sitting community activist the organization endrosed this mayoraly candidate and tied its campaign into the sitting alderman community activistS. The mayoralty canadiate got elected and the alderman headed the poll--getting an extra cash payment. But in order to head the poll the alderman carried a side campaign against us. So there is petty and hard feeling in our organization. I am going to use this to demonstrate toight that it is not the result of anything else than our unprincipled collaboration with this alderman. The mayor goet elected but the majority of the council is right wing so that he is completely paralyzed--I am going to use that to demonstrate that it means nothing unless you have a majority or are m oving in that direction. As you can see xx we are still here in Canada still in the process of establishing the labor party xxxxxx what are seemingly organizational questions have important political implications.

We are so tied up in matters of this plane that it is difficult to rise to the level of a national scanadal that compromises the principles of independent working class political action. The Prime Minister of Canada has just dealt a body blow to the party by an ineredibly bold move. He appointed the NDP leader of Manitoba to the post of Governor-General of Canada.... the symbolic post of head of the Canadian capitalist state. We are the only elements in the party that have protested--Dale--that red-headed fellow you had lunch with passed a protest in his riding association. The fact is that the NDP leadership not even secretly are pleased to be so accepted by the top ruling circles of the country. A longstanding leader of the party expressed his pleasure with the fatheaded remark that it has "kosherized" the NDP. A really brilliant body blow to the NDP by P.M. Trudeau.

Of course there are some good things--the above give us opportunities to make propaganda but nonetheless set the movement as a whole back. But death as it must come to all struch down a reactionary in the city council and so we have a byelection in which we will be able to pose the possiblity of winning a majority in the city to back up the community orientated mayor on any have decent moves he may make on housing, transportation etc.

Good news in China these days. I take it that the press there is covering the wall poster campaign in Peking. The Human Rights Alliance that has so boldly surfaced is raising all the key and immediate demands to establish socialist democracy there and open up the revolution---
And the struggle continues in Iran. It would seem that the Bakhtiar government substitute for the Shah may not even be able to take office. And the oilworkers saying that they and not the Moslem Khomaini will decided the matter of production of oil holds out the possiblity that the working class will find the reserves to move out independnelty towards the establishment of a sovereign secular constituent assembly based on universal sufferage and a workers and peasants government in Iran.

Yes we will all be looking forward to your joint arrival in the distant summer of 1980. In the meantime --well our paper will be out in a couple of weeks ane I will try to answer any of your correspondence more or less propmtly.

with socialist greetings to you and your friends

Ross Dowson

(handwritten letter in 1979)

Jan. 7/79

Dear Sam *(G--, Montreal)*:

I cannot let your nice note of Nov. 27 slip by without comment like the others you have sent.

It is a pleasure to see that along with your work as a lawyer, which must be demanding and your continuing concern about theoretical matters – that you manage to keep in touch in a practical way with such matters as the postal workers strike.

From where I stand I would say that Parrot`s conduct was exemplary. He took the union ranks up to, over the line and back in a very tricky situation. As you know there are groups of ultra lefts in several locals which have a record of doing their own thing without regards to lifting the local together forward.

If Parrot had not defied the law it is clear to me that the union would have been faced with serious division at several centres – and besides it is good for the health of the union movement to defy such union busting provocations as have been accumulating over the past couple of years. Having gone over the line he was able to actually take the whole union to a man right back on the job. – thro an executive order – he gained a stature that the ultras couldn`t challenge. And he and the executive did it by dictat – no vote.

If there had been a vote he would have won it but the process would have coalesced the ultras and given the slightest feeling of legitimacy, they would have put up picket lines, put the pressure on everyone and possibly split the locals for a few days with subsequent repercussions.

Of course the McDermott line has served their continuing failure to defend the postal workers and thus the cause of the entire labor movement as the government continues to harass and provoke that union.

Yes – it just so happened that I did manage to read Sweezy on the USSR. Not much new except it seems clear that we do have to recognize that the working class of Russia who lifted the world working class forward in 1905, and Feb. and Oct. 1917 are no longer for some period a revolutionary working class.

Alas – I wish I could find the time and energy to read the Rosdolsky work – in fact for some time I have wished to be able to squeeze out the time to reread some of the basic writings read long ago when my overall understanding was considerably less. I have just managed to allocate the time to study the latest

product of the new Canadian Marxists – Leo Panitch`s anthology on the Canadian state. Not worthwhile in itself but we have to comment on it for the readership of Forward – hopelessly academic and abstract.

Fraternally,
Ross Dowson

SOCIALIST RIGHTS DEFENCE FUND

CHRISTINE JUDGE, Administrative Secretary
HARRY PAINE, Pres. of St. David's NDP, Treasurer

50 Thorncliffe Ave.
Toronto M4K 1V5

FROM OUR GROWING NUMBER OF SUPPORTERS*

CHECKED 108

INTERNATIONAL:
Noam Chomsky, Jessica Mitford, Linus Pauling, Benjamin Spock

CANADA
ROBERT ALBRITTON, professor of political science, York University
MARY BOYCE, lawyer
ANDREW BREWIN, NDP-MP
DOUGLAS CAMPBELL, actor
CARL CUNEO, professor of sociology, McMaster University
KENNETH DANSON, lawyer
CHANDLER DAVIS, professor of mathematics, University of Toronto
DR. D. DICKMAN, psychiatrist
DR. JAMES J. ENDICOTT of *The Far East Newsletter*
SAM FOX, president of the Labour Council of Metro Toronto
EDGAR Z. FRIEDENBERG, professor of education, Dalhousie University
DANNY GOLDSTICK, professor of philosophy, University of Toronto
CY GONICK of *Canadian Dimension*
REV. DUKE T. GRAY of the Unitarian Congregation, Toronto
JOHN HARNEY, professor of Canadian Studies, Atkinson College, York University
GRACE HARTMAN, president of the Canadian Union of Public Employees
GREG KEALEY, professor of history, Dalhousie University
PAT KERWIN, director of political education, CLC
MARGARET LAURENCE, author
D. W. LIVINGSTONE, professor of sociology, OISE
IAN LUMSDEN, professor of political science, York University
GEORGE MARTELL, author
MICHAEL MASON, professor of history, Concordia University
TERRY MEAGHER, secretary treasurer, OFL
G. J. & C. J. McEWEN of *Affairs of the Moment*
MAX NEMNI, professeur de science politique, Laval
B. D. PALMER, professor of history, Queen's
LEO PANICH, professor of political science, Carleton University
GLEN PATTINSON, Canadian district president IUE (AFL-CIO/CLC)
ELEANOR WRIGHT PELRINE, author
NORMAN PENNER, professor of political science, Glendon Campus, York
H. C. PENTLAND, professor of economics, University of Manitoba
AL PURDY, poet
JAMES W. RINEHART, professor of sociology, University of Western Ontario
SATU REPO, author
CHARLES ROACH, lawyer
WAYNE ROBERTS of *Forward*
ELLIOT ROSE, professor of history, University of Toronto
JOE ROSENBLATT, poet
SIMON ROSENBLUM, professor of sociology, Laurentian University
JOE ROSENTHAL, artist
CLAYTON C. RUBY, lawyer
J. T. SKOBERG, NDP-MLA, Saskatchewan
DENIS SMITH of *The Canadian Forum*
NEIL TUDIVER, department of social work, University of Manitoba
A. L. WERNICK, professor of sociology, Trent University
STEPHEN WILLIAMS of *Essie and Toronto Life*

*organizations listed for identification only

This press release, turned over to the mass media on February 19, 1979 by he Socialist Rights Defense Fund, despite its importance and the eminence of the committee's supporters, was completely ignored by the mass media as have all other SRDF press releases. Thus, to the McDonald Commission's cover-up, we have a mass media black-out added as well.

The Krever Commission has been asked to require the RCMP to turn over the records of its agents involved in the harassment of the trade union and socialist movements by longtime Toronto socialist activist, Ross Dowson.

Dowson, who is suing the RCMP for half a million dollars for slander, has just given testimony to the counsel of the Royal Commission on Confidentiality of Health Records under Mr. Justice Horace Krever. He has turned over two letters which were surreptitiously circulated at the convention of the youth movement of the League for Socialist Action in December 1972 at which time Dowson was the latter's executive secretary. The letters revealed medical information designed to compromise a leading member of the organization and create unease in its ranks, which was in all probability stolen from the health records in the care of the Ontario government. The Krever Commission recently ended its investigation of a Globe and Mail reporter's article that claimed that the RCMP obtained such information illegally in its campaign of dirty tricks against radicals, when Justice Krever withdrew an order that the reporter appear before it to give evidence.

In a somewhat similar case in the United States involving FBI harassment of a socialist group, Judge T.P. Griesa of the Federal District court in Manhattan ordered the FBI to release the files on its unidentified informers who spied on the group. The Attorney-General of the United States of America is now in contempt of court for his refusal to do so.

Dowson's slander suit which was initiated over a year ago has been stalled from proceeding to the Examination for Discovery by the representatives of the Queen seeking a dismissal of the action. Over February 8 and 9, Dowson's lawyer Harry Kopyto cross-examined RCMP Commissioner Murray Sexsmith concerning the latter's contention that an RCMP statement was a protected official communication and not subject to court action. Kopyto argued that the RCMP abused the protection in order to avoid answering the question put to the solicitor-general by Ontario Attorney-General Roy McMurtry in response to inquiries by the NDP as to whether the RCMP had investigated that party. The solicitor-general's report claimed that the RCMP has not investigated the NDP "as such" but NDP members who were alleged to be LSAers and "ex-Communists" who it smeared as "subversives."

For further information, contact Christine Judge, administrative secretary of the Socialist Rights Defense Fund - 466-1307.

March 7, 1979

Ross Dowson, #2311
40 Homewood Ave
Toronto, M4Y 2K2

Bryan Palmer
Dept of History
Queen's University
Kingston, K7L 3N6

Dear Byran;

I am sorry to be so long in answering your letter. I hope that my silence was interpreted by you to mean that all is OK.

Yes, Monday, March 26, 1;00 - 2;30 is fine. Thank you forgoing to all the trouble to check out transportation. however as things now stand I will be going down by car. I and some friends have a peice of property a short distance north of Deserento. So I expect to go down there Friday nite or Saturday morning, putter around a bit and have someone drop me off in Kingston Sunday afternoon or evening. They will be dropping me off then as they have to get back to work. I would stay overnight in Kingston, give the talk and leave so that I can get back on my own job or ready for it late that evening. I can take one day off work but not two. I am sorry that there will be little time to have a relaxed discussion with you but perhaps you can arrange some time Sunday night or Monday morning. If it is agreeable to you I would stay at your place over Sunday nite

Thanks for filling me in as to how you think my comments would be most useful. I am looking forward to the experience

Since I will be going into Kingston Sunday late afternoon or early evening when I would imagine these are few students around to direct me and things may be closed up is Watson Hall #206 an adequate address.? If it is do not bother to reply--I will meet you there.

fraternally

Ross Dowson

The Globe and Mail
SATURDAY MARCH 10 1979

Security Service used secret medical d to write disruptive letters, Mountie ad

By THOMAS CLARIDGE

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police used confidential medical information in a bid to disrupt a Toronto Trotskyite organization in 1972, a senior member of the force told a royal commission yesterday.

Superintendent I. W. Taylor said RCMP members wrote and distributed two unsigned letters which disclosed psychiatric problems faced by John Riddell, a League for Socialist Action leader responsible for organizing a youth wing, the Young Socialists.

Supt. Taylor, the head of an RCMP Security Service task force which deals with commissions of inquiry, told the Royal Commission on Confidentiality of Health Records that the letters were written with the knowledge and authorization of senior RCMP officers.

The admission came three months after another senior RCMP officer told the same inquiry it had been given all the information available on RCMP access to medical information. At that time, commission counsel Harvey Strosberg concluded there was no evidence the RCMP had ever obtained

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THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 1979

RCMP used health reco

In bid to discredit socialist

Allegations that the Royal Canadian Mounted Police used confidential health information to discredit a senior member of a Trotskyite organization in 1972 are to be examined by the Royal Commission on Confidentiality of Health Records.

Socialist Ross Dowson and his lawyer, Harry Kopyto, have been asked to attend a hearing tomorrow that the commission counsel, Harvey Strosberg, said yesterday will concern "a matter dealing with the RCMP."

Last month, Mr. Dowson and the Socialist Rights Defence Fund asked the royal commission to investigate suspicions that the RCMP was behind circulation of two letters at a convention of the youth movement of the now-defunct League for Socialist Action. Mr. Dowson was the league's executive secretary.

Mr. Kopyto said then that the letters revealed medical information "designed to compromise a leading member of the organization and to create unease in its ranks." He suggested that the information had come from health records in the possession of the Ontario Government.

A Globe and Mail article in 1977 alleged that in the early 1970s the RCMP "gained unauthorized access to highly confidential medical files and leaked sensitive information from them in an attempt to disrupt radical groups."

In a letter to the commissioner, the article's author, Lawrence Martin, said a paragraph mentioning OHIP as a source of information was not meant to apply to information used for disruptive tactics.

Reached at his Richmond Street law office after yesterday's commission hearings, Mr. Kopyto said he had just been in touch with Mr. Strosberg "and Mr. Dowson and I will be there Friday."

Mr. Kopyto went to the royal commission after he encountered difficulty in proceeding with a slander

ction by Mr. Dowson gainst the RCMP.

The suit alleged that the ounties had slandered Mr. owson and co-thinkers by plying they were subversives in a report tabled in the Ontario Legislature.

The report, tabled by Attorney-General Roy McMurtry, confirmed that some radical members of the Ontario New Democratic Party were investigated by the RCMP in the early 1970s. It said the investigation was launched because subversive groups had penetrated the NDP through its Waffle movement in order to gain respectability, credibility and influence.

The report had gone on to say that when the Waffle invited non-NDP members to join its ranks the invitation was accepted by ex-members of the Communist Party of Canada and members of Canadian Trotskyite movements.

Leaders of the League for Socialist Action in fact directed their members to join the Waffle.

The Globe and Mail
444 Front St. W.
Toronto, Ontario M5V 2S9

Now 61, Mr. Dowson was several times a Toronto mayoralty candidate and was a leading member of the league from its inceptio

The Toronto Star
One Yonge St Toronto Ont M5E 1E6
STAR SINGLE PURCHASE PRICE
Monday to Friday 15¢ Saturday 40¢
Sunday Star 30¢
SATURDAY, MARCH 10, 1979

Mounties own up to phony letters

By John Munch Toronto Star

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police yesterday admitted they wrote and circulated letters falsely claiming a Toronto left-wing activist was forced to get psychiatric help for "extreme emotional anxiety."

Police said this was done to disrupt radical political groups in Metro in 1972.

The phony-letter campaign was carried out with the authorization of senior officers in the RCMP's security service, Superintendent Ian Taylor said The force had found out, through a non-medical source that John Riddell, 37, had visited a psychiatrist but refused to disclose its source, claiming police informer privilege.

The operation was intended to discredit Riddell, former executive secretary of the League for Socialist Action, a Trotskyite group which was dissolved in 1974, the Royal Commission on Confidentiality of Health Records was told.

Taylor, a 31-year RCMP security service veteran, based in Ottawa, told commissioner Mr. Justice Horace Krever the aim of the phony letters was "to sow dissension in the Socialist community."

One letter, unsigned and undated, was mailed to Riddell's Toronto home in Sept. 1972, and appeared to have originated from a dissident faction within the league.

Addressed simply to "Comrade," it said: "We have been most disturbed lately by indications of increasing emotional instability on your part, witnessed by psychiatric consultations, violent outbursts of temper and frequent periods of irritability."

A second letter addressed "Comrades" said it had "become apparent to many that John Riddell is suffering from extreme emotional anxiety and instability."

The letter had been placed on chairs when delegates met in December 1972 at King Edward Public School on Lippincott St. for a convention of the league's youth wing.

Riddell told the commission his wife also received a letter "with the same general intent" in 1972.

He said he had made five visits to two psychiatrists in 1969 and 1970 in Metro. "I had spoken to my wife about it and that was all." Apart from his wife and the psychiatrists, he said he thought no one knew of the visits.

He said the two letters were submitted last year to the McDonald commission on RCMP wrongdoing but the Krever commision only became aware of their existence two weeks ago.

For further information, contact Christine Judge. Administrative Secretary of the Socialist Rights Defence Fund, 50 Thorncliffe Avenue. Toronto M4K 1V5.

Ross Dowson ,# 2311
40 Homewood Ave
Toronto, M4Y 2K2 -961-4554

March 13, 1979

Ron Holt, #2211
1625 de Maisoneuve West
Montreal, Que. 9356160

Dear Ron;

I hope you will recall meeting me some years ago at St Catherines Street when I was executive secretary of the LSA/LSO. Alan Beiner has suggested that I contact you as a person interested in what I am very much involved in right now.

I do not know whether you are following the daily press or whether the Montreal press has even been reporting the slander suit that has been launched in my name against the Queen--but it has now taken a big turn. Last Friday the RCMP publicly admitted that it had writtenvand circulated to a YS/LJS Toronto convention back in 1972 two letters that on the basis of information they had obtained from Ontario medical files were designed to intimidate, harass and if possible break up that organization and its supporters.

They admitted this before a Royal Commission of Enquiry under Justice Krever set up to investigate whether there was any truth in a Globe and Mail reporter's story that health records security had been violated by the RCMP in its campaign of dirty tricks against radicals. When the G & M angle was dropped I put in for investigation the two letters directly involving us. Harry Kopyto who I think you know, is handling this case as part of a larger slander suit. ~~The~~ The letters contain medical information on John Riddell. While onw is addressed to his wife we have managed to keep her name out of the hearing.

As I sat at the hearing watching the RCMP head of security squirm as he confessed under the probing of three different lawyers--the commission's, the civil liberties association's and Harry--I could not help but think of the thousands who over the years the RCMP has threatened, cajoled, black-mailed, beat up etc, to serve their purposese What an incident of historic justice-and to be only the beginning. Only 3 or 4 months before an RCMP commissioner had sworn on oath that there was no evidence whatsoever of misuse of medical information by them . There they are admitting planting two letters-- with effusive assurances that there are no more. Then Kopyto produces a third. In the face of protests from their battery of lawyers that this third letter has nothing to do with the others the Commissioner ruled that it was certainly of the same genre and they must make a statement. We are expecting that this expose will result in others stepping forward

All this certainly helps our slander suit which involves RCMP investigation of the NDP which they claimed in a statement to the Ontario Attorney-General was not an investigation of the NDP as such but of the LSA and "ex communists" in the NDP who they smear as subversives--advocates of social change by violent and undemocratic means.

I hope this information is sufficient to show you the importance of the case and the value of pushing ahead with it fully. I and Harry Kopyto would very much appreciate arranging a get together with you at any place of your choosing so that we could talk over what the possiblities are with any evidence at your disposal

My address is above along with my phone number there which I alone answer usually every evening and do not mind having ring quite late . I can also be reached at work----366-2059 from 11 a.m. to 5;45 p.m. We will not hesitate to both come to Montreal given the word, and as you can appreciate are most anxious to hear from you first opportunity.

fraternally

Ross Dowson

March 14, 1979

Jerry Houle
13157 99th Street
Surrey, B.C.

Dear Jerry

Many thanks for the copy of The Foundry. I have told lots of people about it but havent seen a copy for years. It will be making the rounds. I see The Jungle will be coming out in a mass circulation pocketbook . What with the movie Norma Rae we may be getting some more of these oldies repu blished again. I am glad to see you have sent Vern some material on Canadian nationalism. He tobd me that he agreed with a lead article on Forward a few issues ago except for one tiny sentence where we said the Canadian capitalist class was continetnalist. He got badly twisted up in the LSA discussion of a few years back-if you could call it a discussion. At one point he got out on a limb for my quoting Goethe about life being green and theory gray--he attacked Goethe as an idealist and so the quote which I first saw when Lenin used it.

We ll we got the first pay off on our court case--fronm a relatively tiny diversion. I turned in some letters thatwere surreptitiously circulated in the YS/LJS In 1972, to the Kever Commission on the Security of Health Information and low and behold to a startled hearing the RCMP admitted that they wrote them and circulated them as a "dirty trick." After they protested that there were no others Harry K confronted them with another which the Commisioner ruled was of the same ganre. The first real break for our case. The commission hearings will re-open a a few days and we will have to see what more we can do. Of course all this puts the McDonald Commision on the spot.

regards to Ruth and the family

Ross Dowson

SOCIALIST RIGHTS DEFENCE FUND

50 Thorncliffe Ave.
Toronto M4K 1V5

CHRISTINE JUDGE, Administrative Secretary
HARRY PAINE, Pres. of St. David's NDP, Treasurer

FROM OUR GROWING
NUMBER OF SUPPORTERS*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 19, 1979

INTERNATIONAL:
Noam Chomsky, Jessica Mitford,
Linus Pauling, Benjamin Spock

CANADA
ROBERT ALBRITTON, professor
of political science,
York University
MARY BOYCE, lawyer
ANDREW BREWIN, NDP-MP
DOUGLAS CAMPBELL, actor
CARL CUNEO, professor
of sociology,
McMaster University
KENNETH DANSON, lawyer
CHANDLER DAVIS, professor
of mathematics,
University of Toronto
DR. D. DICKMAN, psychiatrist
DR. JAMES J. ENDICOTT of
The Far East Newsletter
SAM FOX, president
of the Labour Council of
Metro Toronto
EDGAR Z. FRIEDENBERG,
professor of education,
Dalhousie University
DANNY GOLDSTICK, professor
of philosophy,
University of Toronto
CY GONICK of
Canadian Dimension
REV. DUKE T. GRAY of
the Unitarian Congregation,
Toronto
JOHN HARNEY, professor of
Canadian Studies, Atkinson College,
York University
GRACE HARTMAN, president of
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GREG KEALEY, professor of
history, Dalhousie University
PAT KERWIN, director
of political education, CLC
MARGARET LAURENCE, author
D. W. LIVINGSTONE, professor
of sociology, OISE
IAN LUMSDEN, professor
of political science,
York University
GEORGE MARTELL, author
MICHAEL MASON, professor
of history, Concordia University
TERRY MEAGHER,
secretary treasurer, OFL
G. J. & C. J. McEWEN of
Affairs of the Moment
MAX NEMNI, professeur
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JAMES W. RINEHART, professor
of sociology, University of
Western Ontario
SATU REPO, author
CHARLES ROACH, lawyer
WAYNE ROBERTS of *Forward*
ELLIOT ROSE, professor
of history,
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Laurentian University
JOE ROSENTHAL, artist
CLAYTON C. RUBY, lawyer
J. L. SKOBERG, NDP-MLA,
Saskatchewan
DENIS SMITH of
The Canadian Forum
NEIL TUDIVER,
department of social work,
University of Manitoba
A. L. WERNICK, professor
of sociology,
Trent University
STEPHEN WILLIAMS of
Exile and Toronto Life

*organizations listed for
identification only

The Attorney General of Ontario, the Honourable Roy McMurtry, has been asked to initiate legal action against the RCMP for its apparent violation of the Criminal Code of Canada. The request has been made by Harry Kopyto, lawyer for longtime Toronto socialist Ross Dowson whose initiatives resulted in the RCMP admitting last week before a Royal Commission hearing that it had violated the confidentiality of Ontario health records. The admission reversed previous RCMP assurances to the Krever Commission that it was not involved in any such violations as had been claimed by a Globe and Mail reporter and which led to the appointment of the commission. The RCMP admitted to utilizing this confidential information in order to fabricate letters which it caused to be surreptitiously circulated with the aim of intimidating and disrupting a socialist group in late 1972.

Mr. Dowson's lawyer suggested that it would appear that the RCMP violated sections 262 (defamatory libel) of the Criminal Code and urged "an investigation into the circumstances surrounding the distribution of the letters in order to determine if any other sections of the Code were violated: for example illegal wiretaps, acts of breaking and entering in order to distribute the letters etc...."

Last fall the Canadian Civil Liberties Association launched a nation-wide petition campaign to win support for its demand that the federal government prosecute members of the RCMP who have already been clearly exposed in the Keable and McDonald Commission hearings into RCMP wrong-doings as having violated civil rights by breaking the Post Office Act etc., and that Ottawa see to it that Criminal Code violations by the RCMP involving thefts, break-ins and arson are prosecuted. The civil liberties association campaign saw such prominent Canadians as Pierre Berton, June Callwood and Robert Fulford soliciting signatures at stands erected on downtown Toronto streetcorners.

The failure of the federal and provincial governments to take action has strengthened the widespread feeling that the McDonald Commission set up almost a year and a half ago with the declared purpose of investigating RCMP wrong-doings is in actual fact a cover-up operation. The information that Mr. Dowson brought to the attention of the Krever Commission had already been presented to the McDonald Commission over a year ago (Jan. 18, 1978).

In a statement to the press last month Mr. Dowson urged the Krever Commission to require the RCMP to turn over the records of its agents involved in the harassment of the trade union and socialist movements—a campaign which officials of the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour (CLC) have affirmed continues to this day. Only in this way can the full truth about the RCMP anti-civil rights campaign be ascertained.

March 31, 1979
Ross Dowson, #2311
40 Homewood Ave.,
Toronto

CBC Access
P.O. Box 500, Station A
Toronto

Dear friends:

I have finally received not one but three applications to take advantage of your facilities.

Upon going over the material I have concluded that while I have an excellent project in mind that could be a sensational program there are problems of such a character that there is little point in my filling out the forms but that I should seek an interview with you to see how such a program could come into reality within the framework of your outline--or some other outline that in my opinion would be well worth trying to work out, with Access of some other CBC facility.

The problem is that while there is a group--it could not take on the form of a group with a program of its own without a very firm commitment from you and I would think without a fairwfeed-in from you in advance. The group could be some of the sponsors of the Socialist Rights Defence Fund that is designed to win support for a suit that I have launched against the RCMP(the Queen) If we had something going I feel confident that some of the sponsors could be prevailed upon to come together and put something on. In view of the great talents among such sponsors as Margaret Laurence, Jatu Repo, Clayton Ruby, Al Purdy, to name a few, something very good could come off. Possibly a dramatic action in the style of Peter Weiss, or even Brecht.

But I do not think that I could even move in that direction without some fairly firm propositions and commitments. What do you think . There is no question in my mind that there is a sensational program to be dug out here. There could hardly be a more important theme and one that is going to continue to be beforethe public not only as my case unfolds but as the MacDonald Commission continues to come out with sensational revelations ofinvolvement of politicians in high office in RCMP "dirty tricks" vi lat ons of Canadian civil rights . And it certainly does need Access.

I would be pleased if you would contact me so that we could get together and talk over the possiblities. The best numb r through the day to contact me through is 366 2059. My other number is 961-1554

sincerely

Ross Dowson

I am enclosing a few items for your information

April 3, 1979
Ross Dowson #2311
40 Homewood Ave
Toronto 961-4554
366 2059

Ron Holt, #2211
1625 de Maisonneuve West - 935-6160
Montreal, Que

Dear Ron

I hope this note finds you back in operation and that the tests show that nothing serious is the matter with you. I will be phoning you by the time you get this note which is designed to cover the possibility that we just dont happen to connect by phone easily

I have been speaking to Harry Kopyto and both he and I (now that the federal election campaign is underway) have both concluded that any other weekend than the coming one would be difficult for one or the other to make. I am on the executive of the Rosedale NDP and Harry is an executive member of York North and the heat is already on us. Besides we have to make the next moves on my slander suit and we have just about wound down the Krever Royal Commission--so there is a before-the-storm lull in this area which we could use to think and prepare

Last week I was given the opportunity to go to the stand and make what was about an hour and a half unbroken discourse on how the LSA/LSO really sees a whole range of matters. I think I was in good form. Commissioner Krever actually acted as a commissioner opening the way for me to talk--the RCMP were really paralyzed and had to resort to a couple of really cheap shots. So we will be turning a considerable section of the coming issue of our paper to the hearing. The federal government felt it necessary to make a small section of the RCMP files open to Krever--somehwat embarassing to Krever as they firmly closed them on the PQ's Keable Inquiry. The Keable officials will no doubt be protesting. And now with the RCMP reluctantly confessing its dirty tricks against the LSA Harry is demanding that the provincial attorney take legal action against the RCMP

So we will shortly be heading into a busy complex period and it would be most desireable we see you this weekend. I do not see that it will be much of a strain on you and you can be sure we will be most sensitive to your condition.

We will be arriving on the same train this coming Sunday and will go directly up to your apartment around 3. Looking forward to seeing you

fraternally

Ross Dowson

SOCIALIST RIGHTS DEFENCE FUND

CHRISTINE JUDGE, Administrative Secretary
HARRY PAINE, Pres. of St. David's NDP, Treasurer

50 Thorncliffe Ave.
Toronto M4K 1V5

April 5, 1979

FROM OUR GROWING
NUMBER OF SUPPORTERS*

INTERNATIONAL:
Noam Chomsky, Jessica Mitford, Linus Pauling, Benjamin Spock

CANADA
ROBERT ALBRITTON, professor of political science, York University
MARY BOYCE, lawyer
ANDREW BREWIN, NDP-MP
DOUGLAS CAMPBELL, actor
CARL CUNEO, professor of sociology, McMaster University
KENNETH DANSON, lawyer
CHANDLER DAVIS, professor of mathematics, University of Toronto
DR. D. DICKMAN, psychiatrist
DR. JAMES J. ENDICOTT of *The Far East Newsletter*
SAM FOX, president of the Labour Council of Metro Toronto
EDGAR Z. FRIEDENBERG, professor of education, Dalhousie University
DANNY GOLDSTICK, professor of philosophy, University of Toronto
CY GONICK of *Canadian Dimension*
REV. DUKE T. GRAY of the Unitarian Congregation, Toronto
JOHN HARNEY, professor of Canadian Studies, Atkinson College, York University
GRACE HARTMAN, president of the Canadian Union of Public Employees
GREG KEALEY, professor of history, Dalhousie University
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NEIL TUDIVER, department of social work, University of Manitoba
A. L. WEINICK, professor of sociology, Trent University
STEPHEN WILLIAMS of *Ezrin and Toronto Life*

*organizations listed for identification only

Civil rights in Canada, the RCMP's flagrant violation of them and the Trudeau government's support and cover-up, certainly are an issue in the coming election, said Ross Dowson in a release to the press today, in response to former solicitor-general Allmand's testimony before the McDonald Inquiry April 4

Allmand stated that prior to 1975 when he claims he created a new mandate for RCMP security service some(?) RCMPers defined as subversive "someone who was militantly against the status quo, particularly if it was on the left rather than the right...and sometimes even if it was in a peaceful way...."

Dowson has launched a half million dollar suit against the RCMP's labelling the now defunct League for Socialist Action of which he was the leader, "subversive" in its response to Ontario NDP enquiries as to whether it was subject to RCMP investigation.

The RCMP's recent admission of dirty tricks against the LSA/LSO before the Krever Commission on the Confidentiality of Ontario Health Records is only a partial admission of a whole series of acts of harassment against that organization and the entire Canadian left. In his wide ranging 1 1/2 hour testimony before the commission last week Dowson stated that "If not in law, in actual fact the RCMP has been conducting itself for many years on the basis that communism, that socialism, and trade unionism are subversive." This statement has been born out to the hilt by Mr. Allmand's admission said Dowson.

Dowson's suit has won the support of a wide range of liberal, labor and socialist opinion (see list on this letterhead)

read over phone
— to CBC
radio on Parliament
given April 5 to ✓ This Magazine
✓ Cdn Forum
✓ City TV
+ to Toronto News Media
about another 10

14

April 11/79

Newfoundland
Dear Harry (S.)

Was I glad to hear the few words from you over the phone. I wondered what the problem was. Of course we have been moving in many ways. I had just come back the night before you phoned from seeing Alain and Manon in Montreal – I also went to see the head of the Anglophone Committee of support for a Yes vote on the Quebec referendum. He is very friendly to us. Harry K. went to see the Keable Commission. The big thing that came out of the Ontario hearings so far – tho the papers said not a word on it – was the 2-1/2 hour discourse I gave on socialism before the Krever Commission (You often feel it – I knew this time I was in top form! – *margin note—ed.)* We will be reproducing part of it in this issue of Forward now underway. John R. was called in as the letters played on his having seen a psychiatrist. What opportunity he had to expound his views – and John Steele too – was not well used in my opinion. First because he didn`t carry the LSA line on the NDP and secondly he didn`t use defensive formulations like Cannon did in Socialism on Trial.

The head of the Commission gave me considerable latitude – possibly because the RCMP compromised him by letting him have a very limited peek at some part of their files – something they never let the Keable Commission in Quebec do. Last weekend Alain Beiner gave us what I think is dynamite – possibly related to what you know.

What ever you tell me Harry. I will go over (it) very carefully. We will handle it the way you want. Tell me all – best regards to all,

Scribbled in a hurry ---- Ross

SOCIALIST RIGHTS DEFENCE FUND

CHRISTINE JUDGE, Administrative Secretary
HARRY PAINE, Pres. of St. David's NDP, Treasurer

50 Thorncliffe Ave.
Toronto M4K 1V5

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 12, 1979

FROM OUR GROWING
NUMBER OF SUPPORTERS*

INTERNATIONAL:
Noam Chomsky, Jessica Mitford, Linus Pauling, Benjamin Spock

CANADA
ROBERT AI BRITTON, professor of political science, York University
MARY BOYCE, lawyer
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DOUGLAS CAMPBELL, actor
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CHARLES ROACH, lawyer
WAYNE ROBERTS of *Pathfinder*
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*organizations listed for identification only

An RCMP agent planted in the Quebec homologue of the League for Socialist Action(La Ligue Socialiste Ouvriere) in the early '70's , presumably to get the goods as to its allegedly "subversive" character became convinced on the basis of his own experience that that organization was in no way "subversive". according to information forwarded to day to the McDonald Commission which is in the process of examining solicitors-general and their relations with the RCMP

RCMP officials have justified their investigation of the sexual orientation of civil servants and others on the grounds that homosexuals would be subject to and vulnerable to blackmail by enemies of the state. Ironically the RCMP itself blackmailed the Montreal citizen into infiltrating the LSA/LSO with the threat that it would inform his employer that he was a homosexual

Harry Kopyto, lawyer for Toronto Socialist Ross Dowson has forwarded the relevant information along with two more letters surreptitiously circulated in that orgianization. Several letters submitted by Dowson to the Krever Commission on the security of health records were finally admitted by the RCMP this month to have been drawn up and circulated by them in their campaign of dirty tricks against the alleged subversive organization. The letters appear to put the RCMP in violation of the Criminal Code and Mr. Kopyto has urged the Ontario attorney-general to investigate them and to launch appropriate action against the RCMP

Dowson, who was the leading spokesperson of the LSA during the relevant period launched a 1/2 million dollar slander suit against the RCMP following an RCMP report through Attorney-General McMurtry to the Ontario house 16 months ago that it had investigate the NDP and the Waffle but not as such ,rather LSAers and ex-Communists in the NDP. Dowson is an active participant in the Toronto area NDP

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1977 mea
961 4554
366 2059

(Note to self)

Phone call with Harry S., April 24/79 at Glen Mill Inn, Cornerbrook

Harry is coming to Toronto June 22/79.

After Harry had left the movement and with his wife returned to his hometown St. John`s Nfld, a former friend of his who he knew was in the RCMP – was in then is probably still in the RCMP – a Lloyd Rideout – probably a sgt. & stationed now in Ottawa – got involved in a friendly old times sake conversation with him.

Rideout told him that he knew about Harry having been in the LSA – that he was no longer. He knew that he had been living with Jacquie Henderson and that he was acquainted with the fact that Harry was close to Ross Dowson and John Riddell. He affirmed to Harry that they had an agent in the organization. He boasted his knowledge that Harry and George Bryant had made a trip to NY to pack up printing equipment from the SWP, that they had an accident with the van etc. – this info could have come from their agent or from the FBI.

Harry remembers that he expressed the RCMP`s concern with the Hardial Baines group in Montreal – that they didn`t feel that they had them sized up – as they felt about us. Harry senses that he may actually have been stationed in Toronto in the 1972 period.

Harry was wondering why the RCMP did not stonewall our letters – why they admitted authorship. We should wonder too. I suggested there was an increasing breakdown with no one knowing who knows what and might tell all.

Should call this person on the stand.

(end)

SOCIALIST RIGHTS DEFENCE FUND

Press Release April, 1979

The Attorney General of Ontario, the Honourable Roy McMurtry, has been asked to initiate legal action against the RCMP for its apparent violation of the Criminal Code of Canada. The request has been made by Harry Kopyto, lawyer for longtime Toronto socialist Ross Dowson whose initiatives resulted in the RCMP admitting last week before a Royal Commission hearing that it had violated the confidentiality of Ontario health records. The admission reversed previous RCMP assurances to the Krever Commission that it was not involved in any such violations as had been claimed by a Globe and Mail reporter and which led to the appointment of the commission. The RCMP admitted to utilizing this confidential information in order to fabricate letters which it caused to be surreptitiously circulated with the aim of intimidating and disrupting a socialist group in late 1972.

Mr. Dowson's lawyer suggested that it would appear that the RCMP violated sections 262 (defamatory libel) of the Criminal Code and urged "an investigation into the circumstances surrounding the distribution of the letters in order to determine if any other sections of the Code were violated: for example illegal wiretaps, acts of breaking and entering in order to distribute the letters etc..."

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The failure of the federal and provincial governments to take action has strengthened the widespread feeling that the McDonald Commission set up almost a year and a half ago with the declared purpose of investigating RCMP wrong-doings is in actual fact a cover-up operation. The information that Mr. Dowson brought to the attention of the Krever Commission had already been presented to the McDonald Commission over a year ago (Jan. 18, 1978).

In a statement to the press last month Mr. Dowson urged the Krever Commission to require the RCMP to turn over the records of its agents involved in the harassment of the trade union and socialist movements — a campaign which officials of the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour (CLC) have affirmed continues to this day. Only in this way can the full truth about the RCMP anti-civil rights campaign be ascertained.

Mr. Dowson's slander suit against the RCMP initiated over a year ago has been bogged down from proceeding to the Examination for Discovery by the representatives of the Queen seeking a dismissal of the action. Over February 8-9 Mr. Kopyto cross-examined RCMP Commissioner Sexsmith concerning the latter's contention that an RCMP statement was a protected official communication and not subject to court action. Kopyto argued that the RCMP abused the protection in order to avoid answering the question put to the solicitor-general by the Ontario attorney-general in response to the inquiries by the NDP as to whether the RCMP had investigated that party. The solicitor-general's report claimed that the RCMP has not investigated the NDP "as such," but NDP members who were alleged to be LSAers and "ex-Communists" who it smeared as "subversives." Mr. Dowson was the executive secretary of the League for Socialist Action (LSA) at the relevant times.

In the meantime the Socialist Rights Defence Fund legal expenses continue to mount and it needs aid both moral in the form of new names to its list of supporters, and in particular financial, to help it carry on in its efforts.

May 2/79

Henry Milner,
Montreal

Dear Henry

A hurried note to enclose a copy of the article. I did the job on your very excellent interview. I hope I did justice to it and all the nuances of ideas.

Any complaints by all means let me know. I put no quotes on it – but by that token it may be considered all one quote – a dilemma. I think it is an excellent contribution to our paper and to the education of the Anglophone left. I am hoping that it will get picked up by others. I am sending some copies under separate cover in the possibility you may have some use for them.

Also enclosing some material (that) I am trying to carry against the RCMP. The committee would be pleased I am sure to have your support.

Fraternally,
Ross Dowson

The article didn`t get the play in Forward that I would have desired – however. Elsewhere in the paper I took a swipe at Gonick`s comments.

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Letter to the editor

Bob Olsen is to be thanked for his letter appearing in the April 1979 Newsletter pointing out the essentially ambivalent, the contradictory character of our party, the NDP.

He seeks to resolve the contradiction by having it come out of the closet, by openly declaring itself to be capitalist—that it does not seek to replace the present capitalist system with a socialist society but advocates only modifications of capitalism "to make it serve the needs of people."

Should the NDP resolve its contradiction the way Bob suggests then it would have crossed the watershed and joined the Liberals and Tories, or some new realignment of such forces. For both of these parties already claim the identical ground that Bob would have us stake out. They too are reformist parties, quite prepared even to advocate the modification of the present system in order to make it serve people—as was obvious in the past election. There are no frank and avowed defenders of the status quo, of capitalism —at most only apologists— in Canada.

If the NDP were to do as Bob suggests it would write finish to its very existence, for, once the NDP has no potential to be socialist, once it no longer suggests or even appears to symbolize fundamental change, it would obviously be irrelevant.

To be sure, socialism means public ownership and public control of the basic means of production. What has happened in the USSR, in China, in the post-capitalist economies, is no cause to give up socialism, for only scientific socialism can explain these developments, thereby correctly holding us on course to a socialist Canada in a socialist world.

Ross Dowson

St George NDP

Newsletter of the St George NDP Riding Association • Published periodically • Address all correspondence to: Clarence Barnes, 211 Queen St E, Toronto, Ont M5A 1S2 tel: 368-2142

POLICY SUBMISSION TO THE ROYAL COM1ISSION OF INQUIRY
INTO THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF HEALTH RECORDS IN ONTARIO

submitted by Ross Dowson

June 14, 1979

The hearings of the Royal Commission of Inquiry into the Confidentiality of Health Records witnessed among other events the Royal Canadian Mounted Police admitting through Superintendent I.W. Taylor that the RCMP instead of upholding the inviolability of their confidentiality did itself actually violate or counsel others to violate the confidentiality of Ontario Health information.

This admission was made three months after RCMP officials had solemnly and under oath assured the commission that they had turned over all available information on RCMP access to medical information and in the face of the failure of the RCMP appointed coordinator to all four government commissions (McDonald, Keable, Lebelle and Krever) to bring the pertinent evidence that had been presented the previous year to the McDonald Commission to the attention of the Krever Commission.

This commission heard the RCMP admit that it had used information gained through violating the confidentiality of health information to commit acts of disruption of the peaceful and non-violent, now defunct League for Socialist Action headed at that time by myself as its executive secretary or chairman, in violation of the Criminal Code of Canada, specifically Sections 324 and 330. It admitted before this commission to using such information to make a false document knowing it to be false with the intent that it should be used or acted upon as genuine to the prejudice of the LSA, myself as one of its leaders, and with the intention of conveying by letter information that it knew was false with the intention to injure or alarm the LSA, myself as one of its leaders and other labour and socialist organizations.

It claimed to have a mandate to disrupt and harass the LSA and other organizations that had been pronounced some four years after the initiations of certain actions as “subversive” which would normally require criminal prosecution under the Code without so much as a hearing or formal charge that would have permitted such organizations as the LSA to defend themselves.

RCMP spokesmen admitted before this commission to making no change in carrying out this “mandate” to disrupt the activities of peaceful and non-violent dissident groups such as the League for Socialist Action. This admission directly contradicted testimony given to the McDonald Commission on April 6th by former Solicitor-General Warren Allmand who claimed that the “mandate” to act against alleged “subversives” whom he said the RCMP arbitrarily defined as “militantly against the status quo particularly if it was on the Left rather than the Right... and sometimes even if it was in a peaceful way” was narrowed after 1975.

The RCMP admitted to this commission that it gained entry into the private facilities rented by the youth group of the LSA in the Toronto King Edward Public School by leaning on the caretaking staff utilizing the long fostered image of the RCMP as guardian of the law and creating an impression of the legitimacy of this act in order to communicate these false statements that they had forged out of information gained though their violation of the confidentiality of health information.

Refusing to reveal their sources to this commission, the RCMP only released edited portions of their secret files to a limited examination by Commissioner Krever under their gaze and without the commissioner being permitted to take notes. Following instructions by the Supreme Court of Ontario that it reveal the sources of its information to this commission, the RCMP is now appealing this ruling to the Supreme Court of Canada. Though we must assume that this edited material was designed to put the LSA in as bad a light as possible in order to justify the RCMP violation of the Criminal Code, it must be borne in mind, in weighing the authority and truthfulness of this edited material that, unlike other RCMP submissions made to this commission, this material was not subjected to the process of cross-examination and an opportunity to reply to it. Its value can be considered, at most, dubious.

The experiences of the Royal Commission in the above respect requires in our opinion that Commissioner Krever seriously consider among his recommendations:

1. that the RCMP must be publicly censured for its violation and its counseling others to violate the confidentiality of Ontario health information;

2. that the Ontario Attorney-Generals office be asked to immediately lay criminal charges against the RCMP for its violation of the Criminal Code specifically sections 324 and 330 in respect to its use of the information that it obtained in violation of the confidentiality of health information;

3. that the so-called “mandate” to harass and disrupt such groups as the League for Socialist Action which directed/encouraged the RCMP to violate the confidentiality of Ontario health information be reviewed by the appropriate federal authorities to assess whether the named organizations actually can be said to be subversive — that is, advocate social change by “violent and undemocratic means” or are in reality organizations of legitimate, political and social dissent, and that such organizations should have a full and proper hearing to defend themselves from being placed on what appears to be a federal government “subversive’ list;

4. that in light of the evidence before this commission that the Official Secrets Act and other relevant federal laws be amended to exclude the use of “national security” considerations as an excuse to frustrate, block and prevent the expression of legitimate minority political and social dissenting views;

5. that in light of the RCMP’s actions as revealed before this commission, proper due consideration be given in the constitutional discussions that have been ongoing events

and are certain to widen should the first referendum on sovereignty association rally substantial support and should Opposition leader Pierre Trudeau press for the patriation of the constitution (the BNA Act) to the matter of the abolition of the RCMP on the grounds that its very existence is in violation of the BNA Act and that it is in effect a paramilitary conspiratorial political police institution that is inimical to the democratic aspirations of the Canadian people.

SOCIALIST RIGHTS DEFENCE FUND

50 Thorncliffe Ave.
Toronto M4K 1V5

CHRISTINE JUDGE, Administrative Secretary
HARRY PAINE, Pres. of St. David's NDP, Treasurer

FROM OUR GROWING NUMBER OF SUPPORTERS*

INTERNATIONAL:
Noam Chomsky, Jessica Mitford, Linus Pauling, Benjamin Spock

CANADA
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MARY BOYCE, lawyer
ANDREW BREWIN, NDP-MP
DOUGLAS CAMPBELL, actor
CARL CUNEO, professor of sociology, McMaster University
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CHANDLER DAVIS, professor of mathematics, University of Toronto
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SAM FOX, president of the Labour Council of Metro Toronto
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JOE ROSENTHAL, artist
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J. L. SKOBERG, NDP-MLA, Saskatchewan
DENIS SMITH of *The Canadian Forum*
NEIL TUDIVER, department of social work, University of Manitoba
A. L. WERNICK, professor of sociology, Trent University
STEPHEN WILLIAMS of *Exile and Toronto Life*

*organizations listed for identification only

June 15, 1979
For Immediate Release

Ross Dowson whose previous presentations to the Ontario Royal Commission of Inquiry into the Confidentiality of Health Information resulted in the sensational admission by the RCMP that it had used facts gained through the violation of the confidentiality of health information in a campaign of dirty tricks against the now defunct League for Socialist Action when Dowson was its leading personality ,made a policy submission today to the Krever Commission.

His submission of 4 1/2 pages of double-typed copy was made at the same time as a massive five volumes of material was presented by the RCMP

Highlighting Dowson's submission was a recommendation that Commissioner Krever should urge the Ontario Attorney General's office "to immediately lay criminal charges against the RCMP for its violation of the Criminal Code, specifically sections 324 and 330 in respect to its use of the information that it obtained in violation of the confidentiality of health information" and that he should also urge consideration of a proposition that Dowson had earlier raised to the McDonald Inquiry over a year ago and has now been raised in the new publication THE RCMP vs THE PEOPLE by Toronto professors Edward Mann and John Lee---the abolition of the RCMP. Dowson stated that "its very existence is in violation of the BNA Act " as J.S. Woodsworth, founder of the CCF-NDP pointed out years ago, "and it is in effect a para-military conspiratorial political police institution that is inimicable to the democratic aspirations of the Canadian people."

for further information phone 366-3190

June 17, 1979
40 Homewood Ave, #2311
Toronto, M4Y2K2

Dear friend;

We have received the 1979 tax bill for Camp Poundmaker. The general municipal mill rate has risen as has the mill rate for education-raising the total tax bill $43.05 to the amount of $335.93

[redacted] there has been no change in the assessed value of the properties --it still stands at 2500. I am therefore concluding that at the time this [redacted] assessment was made Murray Dowson's cottage was in such a state[redacted]was not being assessable and am apportioning the tax with the same unitary basis as other years--as follows

Bedard	11	$82.12	Newbigging	1	7.47
Hugh	4	29.86	Bryant	1	7.47
TSS&ES	24	179.16	Riddell	1	7.47
Dowson, M	1	7.47	Martin	1	7.47
Dowson R	1	7.47			

The Harding lot still rmains unsettled and continues to be tax financed by the whole, although Ross paid off Harding on behalf of the corporation

As per our agreement we are now able to supply potable water from our well. Thanks to the efforts of Vic, George and Murray the new pump we agreed was necessary has been installed . It works will and is delivering good water in sufficient qantity to meet our needs although we have yet to get it passed by the Health Department. Ross advanced the basic outlay of $615.00 for the pump--and has received no bill for any other possible costs.

Should any owner and friends want to use the facilities of the lodge for a period they should [redacted]clear it with Darrell at 364 5908. I have worked out the individual tax allocation on the basis that there will be prompt payment and no penalties charged us. I would therefore appreciate payment by June 30th

sincerely

Ross Dowson

SOCIALIST RIGHTS DEFENCE FUND

CHRISTINE JUDGE, Administrative Secretary
HARRY PAINE, Pres. of St. David's NDP, Treasurer

50 Thorncliffe Ave.
Toronto M4K 1V5

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While the Quebec Keable Inquiry appears to have been mortally wounded by the Federal Courts, and the McDonald Inquiry into RCMP "wrong doings" drags on from month to year, there is one case relevant to the growing accumulation of evidence of RCMP violations of the civil rights of the Canadian people that is alive and well. This is the one and a half million dollar slander suit launched 1½ years ago by longtime Toronto socialist activist Ross Dowson.

The Socialist Rights Defence Fund backing the Dowson suit is winning increasing support and it needs your support. Among the most recent additions to its already impressive list of supporters are : H.J. Glasbeek, barrister and solicitor of the Supreme Court of Victoria and professor of law, York University; Michael Mandel, professor of law Osgoode Hall Law School, York University; Gerry Hunnius, professor of social science Atkinson College, York University, Francis Henry, professor of anthropology York University; R. Aldrich, professor of music, University of Western Ontario, etc., etc.

The RCMP's sensational admission before the Krever Commission of Inquiry into the Confidentiality of Health Records, that instead of upholding the inviolability of their confidentiality the RCMP did itself actually violate or counsel others to violate the confidentiality of Ontario health information, resulted from initiatives taken by Dowson and his lawyer Harry Kopyto.

On June 14, in his policy submission to the commission, Dowson urged among other proposals that Commissioner Krever recommend that the Attorney-General's office be asked to immediately lay criminal charges against the RCMP for its violation of the Criminal Code, specifically Sections 324 and 330 in respect to its use of information that it obtained in violation of the confidentiality of health information.

Last month Harry Kopyto presented to the lawyers of the Keable Commission evidence that the RCMP used the threat of blackmail to force a homosexual to infiltrate the Montreal Ligue Socialiste Ouvriere during the Quebec 1970 October crisis. Later the informant, on the basis of his own experience, concluded that the LSO was not "subversive" as alleged, became a convinced socialist and subsequently refused to act as a conduit for the RCMP security service.

With the help of other lawyers and their aides active in the civil rights field, the Socialist Rights Defence Fund is working with various individuals who have experienced RCMP violations of their civil rights in the preparation of dossiers for submission to the McDonald Commission

Understanding fully the potential of the Dowson suit, the RCMP is attempting to have it dismissed on the basis that the RCMP charge of subversion against the LSA and its leading officers such as Dowson, though read into the Ontario legislative record and reported as a press release, was a "confidentia communication protected by absolute privilege from court action. Having thoroughly examined and analyzed the official record of a two-day cross-examination of RCMP Commissioner Sexsmith and in the light of his examination of Superintendent I.W. Taylor at the Krever hearings, SRDF lawyer Kopyto is now prepared to take the case onto the next stage

The $600 for the official record has been raised. But more funds and more expressions of support are required to carry forward this important effort

Support the SRDF. Read its following statement of purpose and act NOW.

# # #

We wish to indicate our support as concerned civil libertarians for the suit init-

iated by Mr. Ross Dowson against the RCMP. We understand that the purpose of this suit is to establish the legitimacy and legality of socialist thought in face of charges of "subversion" by the RCMP

We believe that individuals have the right to express their views free of unwarranted and unsubstantiated allegations of subversion.

We believe that the charge of subversion has been used and is being used to justify intervention in the internal affairs and the harassment of such legal organizations as the New Democratic Party and the organized labor movement and we further believe that such activities threaten to whittle away at the democratic right to dissent in Canada

Though we may not necessarily agree with the political views of Mr. Dowson, we believe that the real test of a democracy is its ability to tolerate and respect individuals whose views may not coincide with those of the majority at any given time.

☐ You may add my name to the list of supporters ☐ Enclosed please find a contribution to the Fund to help pay legal costs

signature 6/19/79

name (please print or type)

address

POLITICAL ECONOMIC AND RELIGIOUS FREEDOM
The Commonwealth **the Nation** April 4, 1979 7

Mounties admit misuse of medical records

The traditional doctor patient relationship is sometimes now a triangle: you, your doctor and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. It's a situation that may see the RCMP defending themselves in court.

RCMP officials admitted in Toronto March 9 they gained access to and used confidential medical information to fabricate two letters they hoped would damage the credibility of Jo... a Toronto socialist le... a re... qu... cl...

The police made the admission to an Ontario Royal Commission on the Confidentiality of Health Records (the Krever Commission). The admission reversed previous RCMP assurances to the commission that the force was not involved in any such violations.

Supt. Taylor, testifying for the police, told the commission the medical information had come from a "non-medical source." But the policeman would not identify the source. Now would he say whether the force used illegal means such as a wiretap to get the information.

Harry Kopyto, a Toronto lawyer, has urged "an investigation into the circumstances surrounding the distribution of the letters in order to determine if any other sections of the Criminal Code were violated: for example illegal wiretaps, acts of breaking and entering in order to distribute the letters, etcetera."

The information concerning RCMP use of confidential medical records was laid before the federal McDonald Commission into RCMP wrong-doings over one year ago. The fact neither federal nor provincial governments have acted on the revelations has led many to brand that commission a cover-up rather than an investigation.

The Ontario NDP has been assured the RCMP never investigated the party "as such." But, NDP members who were also members of the League for Socialist Action and "ex-Communists" were investigated.

The Krever Commission has been urged to require the RCMP to turn over the records of its agents involved in the harassment of the trade union and socialist movements – a campaign which officials of the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour (CLC) have affirmed continues to this day.

The Alberta Democrat

Mountie charges

New Democrat sues gov't over RCMP crimes

The Deputy Minister of Justice in Ottawa will be the main witness for the federal government in pre-trial hearings in a $500,000 law suit against the Canadian government arising out of the controversy concerning allegations of RCMP wrong-doing.

The slander action was initiated last winter by Ross Dowson, the executive secretary of the League for Socialist Action (LSA), an organization declared to be "subversive" by the RCMP and named as a main reason for the RCMP's investigation of the NDP-Waffle in the early 1970s.

Dowson's counsel, Harry Kopyto, announced that, "While we still await final confirmation from government lawyers that the Deputy Minister of Justice will be produced for pre-trial hearings, information we have obtained has led us to conclude that this individual is most knowledgable about the NDP-Waffle investigation by the RCMP."

Kopyto said the RCMP investigation was directed by "individuals at the ministerial and cabinet level", and that these individuals had full knowledge and control over RCMP activities within the NDP.

"We have already obtained independent confirmation that the defence of the suit is being conducted by politicians who appreciate that their pleas of ignorance concerning RCMP wrong-doings are likely to be contradicted as the full facts of the RCMP investigation come forth through pre-trial hearings."

The hearings are scheduled to commence Oct. 11.

In another development, four prominent US citizens have expressed support for the slander action of Dowson, who is currently vice-president of the Rosedale NDP constituency association in Toronto.

In a statement signed by pediatrician Dr. Benjamin Spock, Nobel prize winner Linus Pauling, well-known author Jessica Mitford, and M.I.T. linguistics professor Noam Chomsky, the four declared, "We believe that the charge of subversion has been used to justify intervention in the internal affairs and the harassment of such legal organizations as the New Democratic Party and the organized labour movement and we further believe that such activities threaten to whittle away at the democratic right to dissent in Canada."

In addition to international support, the suit has also won support from NDP Foreign Affairs critic Andrew Brewin and many other prominent Canadians including Cy Gonick, publisher of *Canadian Dimension*, John Harney, a federal NDP candidate in Ontario, Grace Hartman, president of CUPE, author Margaret Lawrence and poet Al Purdy.

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RGING FAI

By Lolly Kaiser

What may develop into the most significant protest yet against police repression involves a slander suit against the RCMP by a former member of the Trotskyist League for Socialist Action.

Ross Dowson, vice-president of the Rosedale NDP riding association and former executive secretary of the now defunct league, will be taking on the government in a preliminary hearing set for October 11 in Toronto. Dowson says he was slandered in a statement by the RCMP, which alleged it had investigated members of the NDP Waffle who were also members of the League for Socialist Action. The Mounties claimed the league was "subversive" and that it tended "to promote changes brought on by violent and undemocratic means."

Dowson, now a member of the social action group Forward and manager of Forward Books, says the hearing and the trial itself later in the new year will be especially revealing, since all investigations conducted by the RCMP into members of both the NDP and the Trotskyist league will surface. Dowson's counsel, civil rights lawyer Harry Kopyto, feels the government's case will be weak if it tries to link to the Waffle and alleged subversive groups all those members of the NDP who were investigated.

Winnipeg General Sympathetic Strike

PERMITTED BY *AUTHORITY OF* STRIKE COMMITTEE

Trial bu jury destroyed by stampede forty-five minute legislation – Workers arrested and rushed to penitentiary to smash strike – Leading lawyers, members of employers' Committee of 1000, engaged by federal government to prosecute workers.

By Ross Dowson

1919, WINNIPEG, third largest city in the country, population 170,000. For 41 event-packed days, this Canadian city, gateway to the West, stood in the grip of a general strike.

For 41 days it was not the City Council that administered the city but a committee composed of the executive of the Trades and Labour Council, five members from the council and three delegates from each union.

Working people ran the city.

WINNIPEG, MAY 1919. Cost of living since 1914 up 80 per cent, wages up only 18 per cent. The postal workers have grievances of over a year's standing. Street car conductors are still waiting for a report from a Royal Commission. The Metal Trades are on strike for shorter hours (a nine-hour day), a wage increase, and recognition. The Building Trades Council, representing 1,400 workers, has been negotiating for a 20-cent increase since February and eants recognition. On May 1 they go on strike.

On May 6 both the building and metal tradws workers appeal to the 12,000-strong Labor Council for support. Without one dissenting vote the Council takes uo the call for a general sympathy strike and asks all affiliates to vote on the question. Next week's Council meeting records a partial count of 8,667 for and only 645 against.

Democracy Does Not Breed That Kind

From the Winnipeg Telegram *June 16th, 1919 (Man. Arch.)*

THURSDAY, MAY 15 the deadline—silence in the factories, not a street car clanks through the streets. Over 24,000 are on strike, 95 unions, 100 per cent strong.

Even the police (with a vote of 149 to 11) support the strike but remain on duty upon the appeal of the newly constituted Strike Committee.

Waterworks employees, on the committee's request, go back to maintain sufficient pressure for domestic use. Staffs are supplied for hospitals.

The committee meets with the frightened City Council to plan milk and bread distribution—the delivery carts tour the city with large signs "By Authority of the Strike Committee."

The Women's Labor League sets up a kitchen, financed by donations and collections taken at mass meetings, to feed striking girls free of charge and supply them with funds for room rent. Anyone without funds and with a ticket from the Strike Relief Committee is given free meals – 1,200 to 1,500 meals are served daily.

Jubilant mass demonstrations fill the streets, rallies jam the parks. All Winnipeg rejoices in its power and solidarity.

The workers want news and they want their comrades to know about their struggle. But the pressmen are on strike. The union supplies volunteers to print Western Labor

News (WLN), a daily paper under the supervision of an editor and a censor committee appointed by the Strike Committee. A committee of four are struck off to send messages to the New York Call to ensure that accurate information goes out to the world.

The federal government puts the heat on federal employees through minister of justice Arthur Meighen and Senator Robertson. Robertson calls a meeting of all postal employees but the meeting is boycotted. He hands them an ultimatum to return to work on May 26, to never again take part in a strike, to sever all connections with the TLC—or lose their jobs, their pensions and their right to ever again work n a government job.

Only 16 return to work.

TUESDAY, MAY 27. Today's issue of WLN boasts that the strike is 35,000 strong. Complete order reigns over the city.

But the employers are organizing their forces around the so-called Citizens Committee of 1,000. They are desperately trying to find support for their campaign against the metal and building trades workers and now the entire working population of Winnipeg. They look to the veterans, many of whom have returned to find no work. Just four months earlier, 2,000 demonstrated in Market Square, raided the Socialist Party headquarters, and led a two-day riotous demonastration against "foreigners" ending with a march demanding that all employers fire alien workers.

The leaders of three veteran's organizations call a united mass meeting to line up support for the Citizens Committee of 1,000. To their chagrin the vets howl down the resolution, declare their support of the strike and quickly elect delegates to the Strike Committee.

On May 30 a demonstration of 2,000 vets call on Premier Norris to demand that the cabinet pas an act making collective bargaining compulsory.

On June 2 ex-soldiers march on the Legislature again. The Committee of 1,000 rigs counter demonstrations composed of persons who would lose their jobs otherwise.

OTTAWA, FRIDAY, JUNE 6. The House of Commons amends the Immigration Act in record time. The amendment is read for the third time and given the Governor-General's assent in less than 40 minutes.

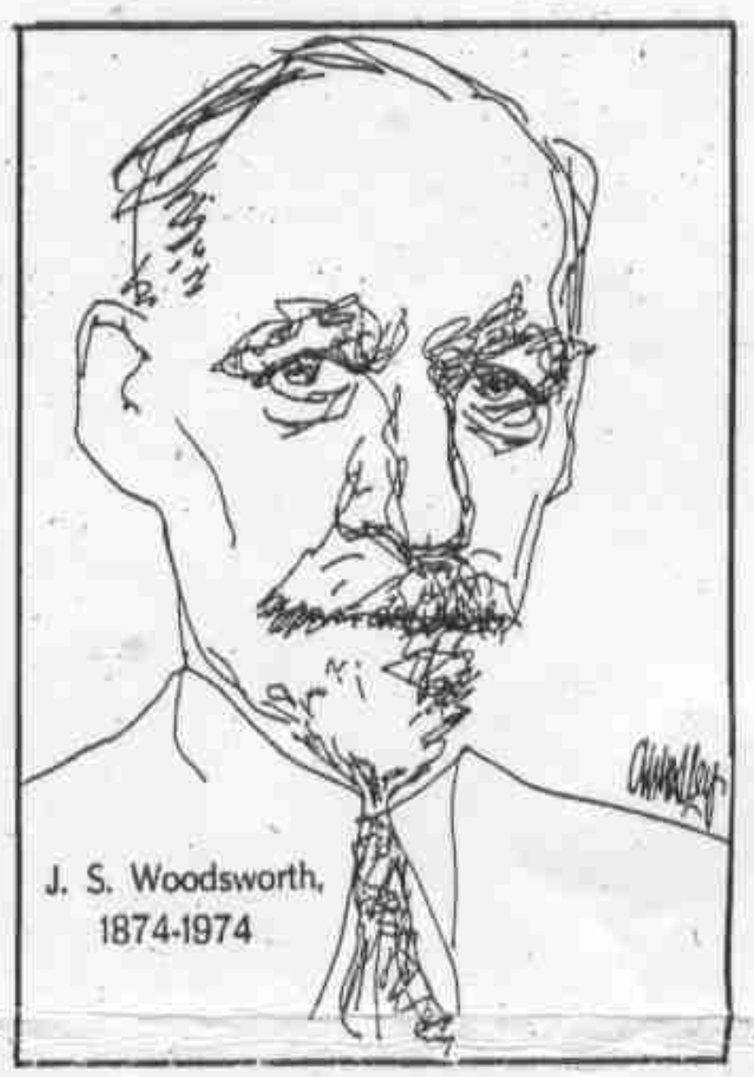
The amendment makes it possible for the authorities to try British-born Canadians in secret, without the accused being present at the enquiry, no real court, trial by jury or appeal to any judge or court—and deport them to the land of their birth. There are rumors that it is being passed so it can be used against the strike leaders.

Military District 10's Officer-in-Command Brigadier Ketchen tells a gathering of Winnipeg citizens that undesirables are going to be dealt with.

The Police Commission has instructed the police to sign a pledge that they will not join any sympathetic strike or affiliate to any labor body.

None sign—all are fired.

The City hires police at 6 dollars a



day who are going around in patrols of six men. An armored car has been rushed into the city.

Mayor Gray swears in hundreds of special constables. Parades are banned. The workers hold fast.

Police provoke incidents—rumors spread of the arrest and possible deportation of the strike leaders. Provincial police begin to pour into the city.

MONDAY, JUNE 16. A day like any of the other days of the past few weeks for the strike leaders: meetings, rallies, handling suggestions, beefs, hurried meals, sleep—when

Holding the fort

For 41 days in May and June of 1919 Winnipeg is the centre of the working world. The workers of North America anxiously follow the fundamental contest of labour power against the power of money and the system. Many do more than watch and wait. They also send heartfelt greetings of solidarity or walk out themselves in support of their brothers and sisters in Winnipeg.

● The Minneapolis Trades and Labor Assembly sends fraternal greetings.

● The Seattle Central Labor Council, which only three months earlier conducted an inspiring five-day general strike, sends not only a message of solidarity but its secretary, James Duncan. He is greeted by a crowd of 10,000 at Victoria Park, all anxious to hear the inside story of the Seattle General Strike.

● Railwaymen in almost every town in the West are out in sympathy with Winnipeg.

● Montreal Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen and Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers take a unanimous vote in support of Winnipeg.

● MAY 20—the Calgary Trades and Labor Council threatens: "In the event of any troops being brought into Winnipeg or martial law being proclaimed . . . there won't be a wheel turning between Winnipeg and Vancouver."

● A general strike closes down Amherst, N.S.

● Toronto—A conference is held by Mayor Church and business officials with Labor Council representatives to attempt to prevent a threatening general strike. A vote for strike is understood to be 17,000 for, 6,250 against. Metal Trades workers are already on strike.

● May 27—a wire to Winnipeg from the Toronto head of the Metal Trades union: "Hold fast—General Strike called 10 a.m. Wednesday."

● May 26—41 unions in Calgary walk out.

● June 2—42 unions in Vancouver.

● June 7—Vancouver informs the Winnipeg Strike Committee, which has been co-opting delegates from outside points to keep itself better informed, that the whole waterfront is tied up and the city is expected to be out within 48 hours.

● June 23—5,000 Victoria metal trades workers strike in sympathy with Winnipeg.

suddenly – bangs on the door. Open up . . . three or four red-coated Royal North-West Mounted Police, with guns and riding whips, burst their way in on startled leaders of the Strike Committee. Armstrong, Ivens, Russell, Bray, Heaps, Queen and five other workers are whisked off in high-powered limousines to Stony Mountain Penitentiary.

They are charged with seditious libel and conspiracy to overthrow the government. Case remanded eight days, no bail.

The prisoners don't have to worry about a solicitor. A. J. Andrews, chief mouthpiece of the Citizens Committee of 1,000, this time in the role of deputy minister of justice, points out, "under the amended Order-in-Council the (Immigration) Board will have power to deport the accused immediately." Five hundred special police and 50 Mounties raid labor halls, seizing files, records, books.

Protests stream in from everywhere. New Westminster June 18 comes out on general strike to protest the arrest of the Winnipeg leaders.

Jack Kavanagh, leader of the 15-day-old Vancouver general strike, states that now the strike will spread to unorganized labor.

● More on page 15

Strike leaders in a photograph taken at Stoney Mountain penitentiary

Winnipeg General Sympathetic Strike

PERMITTED BY *AUTHORITY OF* STRIKE COMMITTEE

Calgary calls for a Dominion-wide strike.

The British Labor Party Conference at Southport protests the attempt of the Canadian government to secretly deport British-born leaders of Winnipeg labor.

Union after union, local after local, is calling upon the Dominion Labor Congress for one-day strikes, an indefinite general srrike. President Tom Moore is silent.

Under the mass pressure of the labor movement the government releases all the Britsh-born prisoners on bail – on the surety that they will take no part in the strike, give no interviews, or make any speeches. The five foreign-born workers are not granted bail and are to be proceeded against under the amended Immigration Act.

SATURDAY, JUNE 21. The Veteran's Committed calls for a massive silent protest parade. The parade forms up on Main Street near the City Hall. It is just ready to move off when 50 mounted men – half in khaki, half Mounties, swinging baseball bats, gallop onto Main Street. They are riding, bats flailing, right down onto the crowd. The parade opens up, lets them through, then closes, the Mounties, less the troops, reform opposite the old post office. they charge, revolvers drawn, right into the crowd, firing as they rip into the ranks.

One worker is murdered, 30 are injured, over 100 are arrested. Lines of special police are immediately thrown across Main Street and intersecting thoroughfares. The Red Coats declare the city under military control. Khaki-clad troops, with rifles and fixed bayonets, are posted at street corners.

The department of justice orders a ban on the Strike Committee's Western Labor News, edited upon Ivens' arrest by a J. S. Woodsworth who had come into the city a few days previously. Woodsworth, later to become founder of the CCF, is arrested for seditious libel for the publication of two verses from the Book of Isaiah.

F. J. Dixon tries to carry on with the publication of the Western Star but is arrested. The committee continues with publication of the Enlightener.

The June 25 Enlightener appears. The Strike Committee announces its decision to call the strike off the next day at 11 a.m. Many oppose the committee's action until the various unions have had a chance to vote on the question.

For over a week thousands refuse to give in.

The official history prepared by the Defense Committee tersely reports as the reasons for calling the strike to a halt: 1. funds have run out: 2. purported recognition by the employers of the Metal Trades Council; 3. government promises to ensure reinstatement of all strikers.

And so the 41-day general strike came to a close. Obviously such a strike, paralyzing not only Winnipeg but all the key centers in the West, had to soon find the limit of its duration. It either had to terminate as a mighty demonstration against the bosses or to take on new and broader aims.

July 5, 1979

Ross Dowson #2311
40 Homewood Ave.,
Toronto M4Y 2K2

Attention Mr. George Messenger, president
CUPE Local 134
Toronto
c/o 212 Roselawn, M4E 1E9 487 1283

Dear Sirs and Brothers

During the recent sessions of the Royal Commission of Inquiry into the Confidentiality of Health Records headed by Justice Krever, the RCMP admitted to leaning on some members of your local in the course of their work, in order to conduct its campaign of "dirty tricks" against the labor and socialist movement

The specific circumstances were on the occasion of a convention of the Young Socialists held over December 28-30 in 1972 at the King Edward Public School staffed by members of your local. The RCMP admitted to putting pressure on the caretaker staff in order to gain their acquiesence to the RCMP entering the school facilities rented by this group in order to distribute or have distributed some letters on the desks there during an intermission. The copies of these letters were based on facts that had been gained in violation of the confidentiality of health information and they are in violation of the Criminal Code of Canada, specifically Sections 324 and 330.

The RCMP took advantage of its long fostered image as guardian of the law and the atmosphere that such legitimate dissident groups as the Young Socialists are suspect and fair game in its harassment of labor and socialist groups in order to intimidate members of your local into acquiescing to its violation of the civil rights of the Young Socialists and their violation of the Petty Trespass Act itself by doing so.

As the person who presented the evidence to the Krever Commission, as the executive secretary of the organization of which the Young Socialists were the youth group at the time, as a longtime unionist and as an NDPer I urge you to take action on this matter. With your help and goodwill I would like to meet the union member who was on duty at the time and obtain certain information that he may recall from him. You can rest assured that my interest is not to cause any embarassment to the person(s) but above all to take such actions as would protect your membership from such insidious pressures. It might be considered useful to press the Board of Education to take such actions as would cause the RCMP to cease and desist from repeating such performances.

I would be pleased to appear before you and am waiting for your reply

fraternally Ross R. Dowson

1979-07July5B

(Handwritten letter)

July 5/79

Dear Peter Weinrich:

(1) Yes – I have, from a user's not an archivist point of view, collected some of it

(2) Yes you may examine it. Phone me from 11 to 5 any day but Sunday at 366 2059 and we can work out some mutually satisfactory time. As you probably know almost the complete run of the main Trotskyist press for that period is on micro film at the Toronto Public library – including its Ukrainian language press. The only run of Workers Voice published from about 1934 to 1939 is in the New York Public Library which it would be good if you could use your connections to bring a micro film of back to this country.

Sincerely
Ross Dowson

SOCIALIST RIGHTS DEFENCE FUND

50 Thorncliffe Ave.
Toronto M4K 1V5

CHRISTINE JUDGE, Administrative Secretary
HARRY PAINE, Pres. of St. David's NDP, Treasurer

July 31, 1979

FROM OUR GROWING
NUMBER OF SUPPORTERS*

INTERNATIONAL:
Noam Chomsky, Jessica Mitford, Linus Pauling, Benjamin Spock

CANADA
ROBERT ALBRITTON, professor of political science, York University
MARY BOYCE, lawyer
ANDREW BREWIN, NDP-MP
DOUGLAS CAMPBELL, actor
CARL CUNEO, professor of sociology, McMaster University
KENNETH DANSON, lawyer
CHANDLER DAVIS, professor of mathematics, University of Toronto
DR. D. DICKMAN, psychiatrist
DR. JAMES J. ENDICOTT of *The Far East Newsletter*
SAM FOX, president of the Labour Council of Metro Toronto
EDGAR Z. FRIEDENBERG, professor of education, Dalhousie University
DANNY GOLDSTICK, professor of philosophy, University of Toronto
CY GONICK of *Canadian Dimension*
REV. DUKE T. GRAY of the Unitarian Congregation, Toronto
JOHN HARNEY, professor of Canadian Studies, Atkinson College, York University
GRACE HARTMAN, president of the Canadian Union of Public Employees
GREG KEALEY, professor of history, Dalhousie University
PAT KERWIN, director of political education, CLC
MARGARET LAURENCE, author
D. W. LIVINGSTONE, professor of sociology, OISE
IAN LUMSDEN, professor of political science, York University
GEORGE MARTELL, author
MICHAEL MASON, professor of history, Concordia University
TERRY MEAGHER, secretary treasurer, OFL
G. J. & C. J. McEWEN of *Affairs of the Moment*
MAX NEMNI, professeur de science politique, Laval
B. D. PALMER, professor of history, Queen's
LEO PANICH, professor of political science, Carleton University
GLEN PATTINSON, Canadian district president IUE (AFL-CIO/CLC)
ELEANOR WRIGHT PELRINE, author
NORMAN PENNER, professor of political science, Glendon Campus, York
H. C. PENTLAND, professor of economics, University of Manitoba
AL PURDY, poet
JAMES W. RINEHART, professor of sociology, University of Western Ontario
SATU REPO, author
CHARLES ROACH, lawyer
WAYNE ROBERTS of *Forward*
ELLIOT ROSE, professor of history, University of Toronto
JOE ROSENBLATT, poet
SIMON ROSENBLUM, professor of sociology, Laurentian University
JOE ROSENTHAL, artist
CLAYTON C. RUBY, lawyer
J. L. SKOBERG, NDP-MLA, Saskatchewan
DENIS SMITH of *The Canadian Forum*
NEIL TUDIVER, department of social work, University of Manitoba
A. L. WERNICK, professor of sociology, Trent University
STEPHEN WILLIAMS of *Exile and Toronto Life*

*organizations listed for identification only

E. Mann and J.A. Lee

Messieurs:

I have just finished reading your valueable book on the RCMP vs the People.

I note in a box in the preface your appeal to readers to contact you re-information on RCMP wrongdoing for use in future studies.

Probably you are aware on the basis of evidence that I presented to the Krever Commission recently that the RCMP confessed to committing acts of forgery and communicating false messages by planting letters containing confidential medical data at a convention of the Young Socialists in the early 1970s and circulating similar letters to members of the League for Socialist Action (LSA/LSO). The Canadian Civil Liberties Association will be informing the SRDF very shortly as to the stand it will be taking on my appeal to the Ontario attorney-general that he charge the RCMP with violation of the Criminal Code

I have submitted information to investigators of the McDonald Commission relating to incidents that I have good cause to consider constitute a whole series of dirty tricks perpetrated against the socialist movement in Canada. Among the materials in this envelope I include a copy of a press release dated April 12,1979 dealing with an incident where the RCMP blackmailed a Montreal citizen into infiltrating the LSA with the threat that it would inform his employer that he was a homosexual. Both the Keable Inquiry and McDonald Inquiry investigators are fully acquainted with this information--the press release was ignored by everyone including Body Politic

The SRDF which is supporting my slander suit against the RCMP continues to expand with the most recent additions being Michael Mandel and H.J. Glasbeak of Osgoode Hall Law School at York U

I am sure the SRDF would be pleased to have you among its growing list of supporters.

I, or my lawyer Harry Kopyto of Richmond Street would be pleased to discuss the case with you are your convenience.

sincerely

Ross Dawson

To Anne Dowson

Aug. 9/79

Dear Anne:

Your mother brought down the computer printout of the faculty at Ottawa U. Excellent – and so I gave her back the calendars that you sent, in the possibility that you might like them. I see you had some notes scribbled in the margins.

Now to the question of getting the mailing into the university mail stream. I would very much doubt that we should approach some worker in the mail department either personally or thro the union. The profs have the right to put communications to their fellow faculty members into the mail stream. That is why I suggested you might approach Leo Panitch for Carleton – he is a supporter of the SRDF campaign. If he is not on campus it is probable that he domiciles in Ottawa but maybe he is out of town; I think without trouble this could be ascertained. (PANITCH – Leo) It would be interesting for you to meet him and the group that he is involved with (see last issue of Forward – note in Cross Country with the NDP)

If we cannot work thro Panitch in Carleton there are other approaches to try. I have just scanned the Carleton calendar and see 3 persons to whom I have just made a standard mailing to – they may well respond quickly – if they don`t you could go and see them – Steve Langdon – James Steele and Reg Whittaker. Give the mail a week let us say then drop in on them. They are important persons worth meeting and they would see you. Landon was a student leader – now NDP candidate. Steele is an outspoken flamboyant Cdn. Left nationalist & socialist who once debated me – it turned into an agreement. Whittaker is a prominent left intellectual of the Panitch school. He will know my name & the case. In a weeks time you could drop in on any one or all of them – see if they would become a supporter – <u>and then</u> if they would put our mail into the stream. I have just scanned the U of O print-out. I notice two names there I am sending material to: Walter Tarnopolsky—who is a head in the Civil liberties association & knows the case and Joseph Levitt who is an ex-CPer now urging all the new radicals to join the NDP and push it left. Levitt would be well worth your meeting. His wife wrote <u>Silent Surrender</u>. Levitt may well agree to be a supporter who could be asked to get the material into the mail stream. If we get a bounce I will let you know – if you have the time it might be interesting for you to drop in and see some of them.

Poundmaker was fine – but I got stung by some wasps. Lois is going up this weekend however I am tied up with things here.

Regards, Ross

40 Homewood Ave., #2311
Toronto, M4Y2K2
August 13, 1979

Dear John Sewell:

Sorry - I had intended to send you a copy of the article on ~~your~~ election to the mayor's seat, that was published in Forward, long ago. I hope that it contains something worthwhile for your consideration.

I am also enclosing a couple of items on my suit against the RCMP. Of course the Socialist Rights Defence Fund would be honoured to have you as a public supporter. As you can see the list continues to grow. The green sheet contains the latest information.

Justice Krever of the Ontario Royal Commission on the Confidentiality of Health Records commented at the close of my testimony that "I haven't heard such an enlightening discussion of Marxism for perhaps 25 - 30 years." Forward has published most of it which I would be pleased to send along if you like. The important thing of course is that the RCMP admitted after several denials to having forged and having communicated false messages containing medical data --we are pressing the attorney-general to lay charges for the RCMP's violation of the Criminal Code.

And while I am at it. I suppose I should have sent you a copy of this letter that I sent to the union local that represents the janitorial staff in Toronto's public schools. The administrative committee of the B of E rather than give me the name of the staff member involved said it would inform him and leave the matter to his initiative. So far I have heard nothing so I have turned to the union. Bob Spencer is informed in this matter.

sincerely

Ross Dowson

The Homewood Residents Association was pleased with the meeting.

(Transcribed from Ross Dowson's notes on a proposed resolution on Quebec, Aug. 13, 1979)

Resolution on Quebec

Whereas, since its founding, the NDP has recognized that Quebec, unlike other provinces, constitutes a nation,

And whereas, because of the oppression of Quebec within Confederation, a large and growing number of Quebecers have begun to question the present status of Quebec within Confederation,

And whereas, a referendum dealing with the question of Quebec's status within Confederation will be held in Quebec in the spring of 1980,

And whereas, the NDP has recognized the right of Quebec to determine its own future, freely, democratically and without interference, (*note by RD:* "taken out of context but direct quote")

(whole paragraph stricken out by RD who writes): "that's part of the mechanics of the referendum… are we opposed to referendum?": that the NDP should not participate in the activities of either of the two umbrella groups set up by the Quebec government to debate the question which will be put forward in the referendum,)

Be it therefore resolved that the federal NDP should not participate in the activities of any pan-Canadian umbrella group, such as the Pro-Canada Committee, which are established to build support (on) either side of the question in the Quebec referendum.

And further, that the NDP should not support any attempt at a pan-Canadian referendum, such as proposed by Bill C-9 which negates the right of Quebec to determine its own future by implying the use of force,

And further, that an NDP government would be prepared to negotiate a new confederal arrangement, including the option of sovereignty-association, if the people of Quebec so desire.

Fragment of another resolution found in this file:

Whereas there has been a tendency on the part of our party spokespersons to stress our commitment to the continued unity of Canada, including Quebec, in the present constitution crisis

And whereas *(Ontario Tory –ed.)* Premier Davis (*struck out:* "with whom our Ontario leadership has identified itself in this matter") has now made it clear that "there can be no accommodation with Quebec 'sovereignty-association' should the Quebec people in a popular poll so opt.

Therefore be it resolved that our party make it crystal clear that (…) we are prepared to accept the will of the Quebec people and work out a new relationship with them

And be it further resolved that we open up a discussion in the party on the proposal of the Committee for a New Constitution that "a popularly elected constituent assembly" be created "charged with drafting a new constitution."

(RD Notes on a second proposed resolution on Quebec)

"…and whereas the NDP clearly recognizes the right to self-determination" ??

(1) the premise of my contribution was that the NDP doesn't do so & this is just the problem. The NDP is more federalist than any other party! It considers BNA Act & the **unity** that is called Confederation sacred – considers confederation & the **unitary state** sacred…. Has gone along with the Lib-Tories on renegotiation, (bi-nation-ism), biculturalism – **every gimmick** – and to say this aren't we just clouding over the central problem?

(2) why should we take a stand that the NDP should **not** get into **either** of the umbrella groups – **why shouldn't it involve itself in the referendum**? (I suppose <this> includes Quebec NDP). Why can't we just evade this – of course we are opposed to being in the one dominated by Liberals but we should oppose going into the other – my impression is that the Quebec NDP has pulled out of the pro-confed (group) – so why is this of concern?

I think that the NDP federally should take a hands-off policy – let the Que. NDP decide and the Quebec people (decide).

--this would of course be the "RUC"s* position – abstain – but why should we go along with that?

Don't we think that the referendum is correctly enacting the right of self-determination – the Quebec NDP should under the principle of right of self-determination do as it chooses – federal NDP hands off!

We should point out that the failure of the party to clearly define itself as favoring the right of self-determination, its clear definition in (the) public mind as federalist has isolated the Quebec NDP – its rejection by Québécois.

Yes the last 2 clauses all right but I don't think this is a good and useful resolution in the …..(?) not (text cut off).

*RUC=ROC=Rest of Canada?

(Ross Dowson notes – referring to "Page 88 - Que.")

1961 –recognized Quebec – the French Canadians as a nation, a national identity and a national culture. (Conservative federalism.) committed to respect(ing) the guarantees of Cdn federalism, assure provincial autonomy

1961 -- Canada a nation: recognized "two national cultures" "We are indeed aware that those who have their roots in French-speaking community, frequently and legitimately use the word "nation" to describe French Canada itself."

1963 (conv.) -- Federalism and Biculturalism "and the 2 nations which created it called for "nothing short of a complete rethinking of our federal system and the relations between the 2 nations which established Canada. "Our constitution must recognize the equal status of the French Canadian nation and the English Canadian nation."

===went along with this myth – the whole Trudeau bit

1961 - thoroughgoing review of the Canadian constitution – but no right of self-determination.
1965 – Canadian Confederation – "Canada faces the gravest crisis in her history. "There has also been a failure to understand the aspirations of French Canada. Replace BNA with Cdn. Constitution expressing requirement of a modern federation. "recognize, clarify & define the special status of Quebec as the guardian of the French language, tradition & culture & guarantee to French speaking minorities throughout Canada.

Fed Prov Relations 1967

Overhaul of constitution & machinery of federal system; constitution must offer fundamental fact that Cda is a country of two major languages;

That we recognize that Que is different from the other provinces in that it is the principal center in Canada of the Fr. Speaking community…

1971 Towards a New Canada ….. Canada is drifting towards a dissolution…

Federal Council of 1972 - A New Canada

Quebec ferment – build a new country, a new society together; raises fear of absorption by US; can't be held together by force.

Calls for a constitutional convention

Federal Convention '77 ??

Feb/78 Ont. St. David – Quebec a nation – right of self determination, with a rider – natl. Solidarity in interests of bldg. A soc. Can.

Nickel Belt – right of self determination

St. George – ditto

Resolution on Quebec

Whereas, since its founding, the NDP has recognized that Quebec, unlike other provinces, constitutes a nation,

And whereas, because of the [redacted]ed oppression of Quebec within Confederation, a large and growing number of Quebecers have begun to question the present status of Quebec within Confederation,

And whereas, a referendum dealing with the question of Quebec's status within Confederation will be held in Quebec in the spring of 1980,

And Whereas, the NDP clearly recognizes the right of Quebec to determine its own future, freely, democratically and without interference,

Be it therefore resolved

that the NDP should not participate in the activities of either the two umbrella groups set up by the Quebec government to debate the question which will be put forward in the referendum,

and furtherm that the NDP should not participate in the activities of any pan-canadian umbrella group, such as the Pro-Canada Committee, which are established to build support for either side of the question in the Quebec referendum,

and further, that the NDP should not support any attempt at a pan-canadian referandum, such as Bill C-9 which negates the right of Quebec to determine its own future by ~~xxxxxxxxx~~ implying the use of force,

and further, that an NDP government would be prepared to negociate a new confederal arrangement, if the people of Quebec so desire.

Whereas there has been a tendency on the part of our party spokespersons to stress our commitment to the continued unity of Canada, including Quebec, in the present constitutional crisis

and whereas Premier Davis ~~with whom our Ontario leadership has identified itself in this matter~~ has now made it clear that "there can be no accomodation" with Quebec "sovereignty-association" should the Quebec people in a popular poll so opt

Therefore be it resolved that our party make it crystal clear that ~~in no way do we agree with Premier Davis' but~~ are ~~fully~~ prepared to accept the will of the Quebec people and work out a new relationship with them

and be it further resolved that we open up a discussion in the party on the proposal of the Committee for a New Constitution that "a popularly elected constituent assembly" be created "charged with drafting a new constiution."

1979-08Aug99 **.rtf Jan15-11** corrrected Apr.7/07

(Re: August-December, found in 1979)

Informal weekend at Camp Poundmaker

If you arrive Saturday Aug. 4 around noon-1 o`clock luncheon being served, supper being arranged – minimum cost; Discussion – Where is the Cdn Left at; to stay overnight in cabins bring bedding and flashlight

Sunday Aug. 5 – breakfast being arranged – minimum cost; we are not preparing lunch as many may want to head out to the sensational Bon Echo or Sandbanks Park on the way home.

Some may wish to stay over Sunday and even Monday – lots of shopping facilities nearby – overnite stay over 2 adults $1 use of facilities included.

We may be able to arrange transportation – call 366 2059

(Map) take 401 to Desoronto side road – north a couple of miles, take 1st road on left before river – see mailbox marked Dowson

***

Forward Group needs to have a well attended meeting as soon as possible

August 8 Wednesday 8 pm.
We need to discuss our position from the point of view of presenting an effective resolution for the coming NDP convention on QUEBEC along with other matters – abortion – discuss the nationalization resolution etc.
--Resolutions deadline is Sept. 28 and riding associations are getting ready
--Rosedale for instance is having a policy meeting Sept. 12 – to prepare and circulate resolutions

Aug. 8, 8 pm at 121 *(Church St. –ed.)*

***

--This coming Wednesday`s Forward meeting will continue the discussion of our convention resolutions
-- Last week we discussed Quebec – Harry has submitted one on the RCMP. The others should be ready for discussion.
-- We have decide to open Forward for short items on the nuclear power question – to carry forward the previous issue`s article
-- The papers 1st deadline is Aug. 26 – dead deadline is Sept. 2 – pick up your material – the papers are being clipped up to date.

See you this Wednesday Aug. 22 – 8 pm.

***

We will be meeting this Friday Sept. 14. The paper is coming along and so is the Dowson case with the McDonald Commission & the federal courts – so too the NDP resolutions. Wayne will be an alternate.

I see Coldwater suffered a grave industrial decline *(this was when the Gorman Industries ? factory burned, early Sept. 1979 –note by Art Grey)*

***

Coming Forward meeting Sunday Sept. 30 8 pm

The paper is off – as far as we are concerned Sunday afternoon we hoped to have it for this mailing but they say they are out of newsprint so we might not have it till Tuesday morning. We need to know of all NDP meetings as the Di Santo and Turk material can have a real impact you will agree.

--phone them in. We have a delegate and a couple of alternates to the federal convention so far. The financial drive needs a life to bring us to our minimum objective – see you Sunday.

Everything still looks OK for Oct. 6-7

***

Last Sunday`s meeting was cancelled because of solidarity rally with Iran Trotskyists. But we must have a meeting this Friday nite so we do not go in to the important Saturday affair cold – along with other concerns.

--See you Friday nite at 8 at 121, October 19.

--We are picking up subs *(subscriptions)* with the last issue of the paper – thro the distributions we are carrying off. Can you pick up any subs among friends?

***

Forward Group will meet this coming Sunday November 4 at 8 o`clock usual place. We should have a better idea where the left is going

--that afternoon there will be a Boyce meeting – and the BC Open Caucus is coming this way with the concept that it will be operational on Nov. 22.

--The suit against the RCMP will be taking a turn at the court hearing of November 6 – open to the public

(continued next page)

***

--The resolutions book for the coming NDP federal convention is out.
--A meeting of left-wingers, including persons around the Turk-Patterson resolution, around the Di-Santo-Dutszka contributions on Ontario and the B.C. Open Caucus is being arranged at City Hall on the eve of the convention.

The Forward Group & Associates at last count will have more than a dozen delegates at the convention.
--So that we can exchange information and ideas we are calling a meeting this coming Sunday evening November 18th at 8 p.m. at 121 Church St.
--We hope that you can attend and participate in the discussion. Bring your resolution book your impressions and ideas.
--If you can`t make it let Ross at 366-2059 11 till 5:45 daily, know
--We are hoping that the three of you in the Orillia area can jump into a car and come down – it`s not far and we will treat you in a manner you are not accustomed to

***

Forward Group is meeting Sunday night – 8:15 at 121 Church (mark on calendar)
--We hope this is agreeable until we can work out this Sunday-Monday nite tangle – SUNDAY
--Important matters to discuss, above all – after the Provincial Council upbraiding of the Federal leadership – evaluation of the class – the summers schedule – the Ont Convention etc etc

FORWARD will be off the press today – a jam-up blocked us getting it Friday.

--It carries SPECIAL COVERAGE on the NDP convention; also it suggests a special gift offer -- $5 and 5 names & addresses in Canada – reminds friends of you and your ideas for 6 issues. We could start this issue.

FORWARD GROUP meeting this coming SUNDAY Dec. 16 – 8 p.m. at 121

--We will be taking an assessment as to whether an afternoon meeting is not more satisfactory.

Alice and child are doing well at home –
Art – hope things are working out better – Ross

(end)

1979-09Sept6**.rtf Jan15-11** corrected Apr.7/07 To Anne Dowson

Sept. 6/79
#2311 – 40 Homewood Ave.

Dear Anne

Well, this morning the mail brought in part of what I had been hoping for so we could get things moving on Ottawa campuses.

Joe Levitt has sent in a donation and better still has signified that he is willing to be known as a supporter of the Socialist Rights Defence Fund. So I think that we can conclude that a visit from you will find him agreeable to our putting a mailing into the University of Ottawa. He gave us his home address – 86 Fourth Ave., Ottawa K1S 2L2. I would think that either he or his wife Kari (the author of *Silent Surrender* – still possibly the most important book on US-Canadian relations) will be listed in the phone book – but of course he may already be set up at the campus. I hope you can see him shortly with his agreement to put the SRDF mail into the stream and let me know at once. We could send all the mail to him direct – or to you to be handed over.

I think he would be pleased to meet you. I do not know whether he knew Hugh – probably. He will be interested to know all about the Ottawa NDP youth. He has been sending articles in to *Canadian Dimension* and *This Magazine* giving the self-proclaimed Marxists hell for not getting in and working in the NDP.

We can still hope that one of the Carleton profs will respond – but with Joe a supporter it will help when you see those key names I sent you,

Best wishes,
Ross D.

For Immediate Release September 12,1979

ROSS DOWSON, who appeared before and presented two briefs to the McDonald Commission during its first hearings in Toronto some 21 months ago, put in an appearance at what would seem to be a mini-McDonald hearing held in Toronto today. But on this ocassion he did so not to add to testimony he has already given commission investigators but to protest the commission's inaction

He contrasted the McDonald commission to the Krever Commission. "Last February," he said, "I turned over some of the evidence that had already been given to the McDonald Commission to Mr Justice Krever's Royal Commission on the Confidentiality of Health Information. Within a month the RCMP confessed that they had forged letters and circulated them or had caused them to be circulated in their campaign of dirty tricks against the League for Socialist Action at which time I was its executive secretary." Dowson is now an activist in the NDP.

"This week, upon the urgings of my lawyer and NDP MLA David Warner, the Ontario Attorney General informed me that he has requested senior officers of the Ontario Provincial Police to conduct further investigation into the RCMP's admissions at the Krever hearings

"If the Ontario Attorney General's office has been slow to act on RCMP confessions of violating the Criminal Code of Canada, some six months, the McDonald Commission can only be seen to be sitting on, stonewalling instead of implementing its mandate to expose RCMP violations and to rectify the situation."

Dowson also announced that his half million dollar suit against the RCMP's labelling him a subversive- that is "an advocate of social change by violent and undemocratic means", is now moving forward again. This month a federal court will make a ruling on a RCMP motion that a statement read before the Ontario house and released to the press was privileged. Dowson's affadavit to the court states that the RCMP statement was released as a press release without any changes, that the statement was completely prepared prior to its communication and that the RCMP in any case made the statement in order to avoid revealing its activities within the NDP rather than to answer the questions asked of it by the NDP leader.

-30-

for further info contact
366 2059

3 o'clock

- Denounce inaction
- Contrast delay
- Challenge RCMP coordinator — told Krever lawyer in no way violated
- Challenge RCMP itself — open files to the Commission
- Challenge to get on or [illegible] undeniable proof that you are a coverup

- Chance
- RCMP files

McDonald Coordinated

"Laycroft
Keable
Krever"

October 4, 1979

To Socialist Voice and the RWL

Dear Comrades:

Several months back comrade Dick Fidler forwarded the names of several of your leading members to be added to the list of supporters of the SRDF campaign behind the Dowson slander suit against the RCMP. We responded that the list was too long and suggested the listing of the editor of Socialist Voice among the supporters, as we have listed Forward, Canadian Dimension, Canadian Forum, etc, etc.,

We are now preparing to publish a new letterhead of key supporters. However there now seems to us to be a problem with listing persons known as members or supporters of the RWL and identified with your publication Socialist Voice.

To the best of our knowledge, and we sincerely hope that we are mistaken in this, your press has not so much as mentioned the Dowson slander suit-- either in an encompassing article or through utilizing any part of the press releases that we have forwarded to you, although they have been picked up by such journals as the Toronto Clarion, The Alberta New Democrat and the Saskatchewan Commonwealth. In the light of this, and all the more because in the public mind we share a common ideology, any claim on our part that you support the SRDF effort would appear to be without any foundation in fact if not actually fraudulent.

We would like to proceed with our suggestion that the editor of Socialist Voice be listed. The problem which we see as arising from our doing so could be easily remedied by Socialist Voice breaking its long silence and coming out in a supportative way of the SRDF effort to expose the machinations of the RCMP.

Anticipating an early response on this matter

with socialist greetings

Ross Dowson

Ross Dowson

cc to The Militant

October 4, 1979

To the editors of North American Anarchist
and The Anarchist-Communist Federation of Canada

Dear friends:

I have noted an article under the name of Lazarus Jones in the October-November issue of your paper reporting that on April 9 of this year the house of an ACF sympathizer in Sault Ste Marie was raided by the RCMP and many documents pretaining to a conference you were planning to participate in were seized. I note also that U.S. state officials subsequently barred you from participating in this conference that was held in the United States.

Some days ago under separate cover I forwarded to you materials that have been circulated by the Socialist Rights Defence Fund in support of my slander suit against the RCMP.

I would strongly urge that you prepare a dossier on the above experience and any others that you may have had with the RCMP and submit it to the McDonald Commission investigating RCMP illegalities--and I would very much appreciate receiving a copy of all materials that you submit to the commission so that I could use them in my efforts in defence of the entire left against RCMP harassments.

I would also appreciate the editor of North American Anarchist signifying his or her support of the SRDF effort so that we could add your name to the already imposing and growing list of supporters of this effort.

Anticipating an early reply

in struggle

Ross Dowson
121 Church Street
Toronto, Canada

SOCIALIST RIGHTS DEFENCE FUND

CHRISTINE JUDGE, Administrative Secretary
HARRY PAINE, Pres. of St. David's NDP, Treasurer

50 Thorncliffe Ave.
Toronto M4K 1V5

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE October 30, 1979

FROM OUR GROWING NUMBER OF SUPPORTERS*

INTERNATIONAL:
Noam Chomsky, Jessica Mitford, Linus Pauling, Benjamin Spock

CANADA
ROBERT ALBRITTON, professor of political science, York University
MARY BOYCE, lawyer
ANDREW BREWIN, NDP-MP
DOUGLAS CAMPBELL, actor
CARL CUNEO, professor of sociology, McMaster University
KENNETH DANSON, lawyer
CHANDLER DAVIS, professor of mathematics, University of Toronto
DR. D. DICKMAN, psychiatrist
DR. JAMES J. ENDICOTT of *The Far East Newsletter*
SAM FOX, president of the Labour Council of Metro Toronto
EDGAR Z. FRIEDENBERG, professor of education, Dalhousie University
DANNY GOLDSTICK, professor of philosophy, University of Toronto
CY GONICK of *Canadian Dimension*
REV. DUKE T. GRAY of the Unitarian Congregation, Toronto
JOHN HARNEY, professor of Canadian Studies, Atkinson College, York University
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GREG KEALEY, professor of history, Dalhousie University
PAT KERWIN, director of political education, CLC
MARGARET LAURENCE, author
D. W. LIVINGSTONE, professor of sociology, OISE
IAN LUMSDEN, professor of political science, York University
GEORGE MARTELL, author
MICHAEL MASON, professor of history, Concordia University
TERRY MEAGHER, secretary treasurer, OFL
G. J. & C. J. McEWEN of *Affairs of the Moment*
MAX NEMNI, professeur de science politique, Laval
B. D. PALMER, professor of history, Queen's
LEO PANICH, professor of political science, Carleton University
GLEN PATTINSON, Canadian district president IUE (AFL-CIO/CLC)
ELEANOR WRIGHT PELRINE, author
NORMAN PENNER, professor of political science, Glendon Campus, York
H. C. PENTLAND, professor of economics, University of Manitoba
AL PURDY, poet
JAMES W. RINEHART, professor of sociology, University of Western Ontario
SATU REPO, author
CHARLES ROACH, lawyer
WAYNE ROBERTS of *Forward*
ELLIOT ROSE, professor of history, University of Toronto
JOE ROSENBLATT, poet
SIMON ROSENBLUM, professor of sociology, Laurentian University
JOE ROSENTHAL, artist
CLAYTON C. RUBY, lawyer
J. L. SKOBERG, NDP-MLA, Saskatchewan
DENIS SMITH of *The Canadian Forum*
NEIL TUDIVER, department of social work, University of Manitoba
A. L. WERNICK, professor of sociology, Trent University
STEPHEN WILLIAMS of *Exile and Toronto Life*

*organizations listed for identification only

● Next week, Tuesday November 6, a federal court judge will rule on the efforts of the RCMP to block the 500 thousand dollar slander suit that Ross Dowson launched against it some two years ago. The hearing, to be held at 330 University Avenue, will open at 10.30 a.m.

The case of Dowson vs Her Majesty the Queen arose when the RCMP was asked by Ontario Atterney General Roy McMurtry to respond to allegations about RCMP investigations of the Ontario NDP.

The RCMP responded by issuing a statement later made public by McMurtry saying that "subversive" elements had infiltrated the NDP during the "Waffle period" drawing the RCMP's interest. The now defunct League for Socialist Action of which Dowson was the long-standing leader was the only group mentioned by name. Dowson is currently a member of the NDP.

The RCMP responded by moving to have the validity of the defence of "absolute privilege" to the slander allegation determined prior to discovery, in order to block any questioning on RCMP harassment of the NDP, the Waffle, so-called ex-Communists and the LSA. Dowson pleads that the RCMP was motivated by malice against him and his co-thinkers and has committed numerous illegal acts directed to limiting the efficacy of the LSA. Furthermore, he argues, the slanderous assertion was not a confidential communication protected by absolute privilege but an attempt to hide RCMP illegalities directed against the NDP and the trade union movement on a cross-Canada scale.

● A major breakthrough in the case came this summer when the RCMP admitted before the Royal Commission Concerning the Confidentiality of Health Records in Ontario that letters Dowson had turned over to it were forged and circulated by the RCMP in violation of Sections 324 and 330 of the Criminal Code of Canada. Early in September the Ministry of the Attorney-General the Honourable Roy McMurtry announced that the Ontario police were conducting an investigation into the RCMP.

● This past weekend the annual conference of the Law Union of Ontario unanimously passed a motion of support of the Dowson suit the purpose of which is to establish the legitimacy and the legality of socialist thought in face of charges of subversion by the RCMP. The conference also decided to call upon federal Solicitor-General Lawrence to cooperate fully with the Ontario police investigation, urged all harassment of dissident groups be ended and that all lists of allegedly subversive organizations be destroyed and prohibited in the future.

Next week's federal court hearing is open to the public. For further information contact 366 2059 or 961 4554

● Among the various favorable responses that the SRDF has received was the publication by The Forward Publication Assn of extensive parts of the Royal Commission hearings. They have offered to mail this material postage paid upon receipt of 50 cents in stamps sent to Box 778 Adelaide Street Post Office, Toronto, M5C 2K1

November 23, 1979

Re allegations of labor leaders participation in
a secret RCMP-Labour committee

To the officers of the Canadian labour movement

Dear Brothers and sisters:

The Saskatchewan Federation of Labour in its brief to the McDonald Commission of Inquiry into RCMP"wrongdoings" told the commission that the trade union movement has been "implicitly branded" by the RCMP Security Forces "as subversive for nothing more than legally and democratically pursuing the best interests of our membership."

Yet correspondence has surfaced (see This Magazine,Nov-Dec 1979) by John Fryer,secretary of the BC Government Employees Union and a vice-president of the CLC) to the effect that prominent unionists have been and may still be participants in a secret RCMP-Labour Committee. Fryer protests that he would not"condone or participate in that kind of activity" but when accused of doing so informed CUPE Director of Organization Lofty MacMillan,and now CUPE President Grace Hartman, of the names of those who are or were the real participants in the RCMP Labour Committee.

Who were the participants? What was the nature of their involvement? What did they do?

Because of the alleged actions of a few the integrity of the Canadian labour movement is at stake. This matter is of concern to all Canadian labour and its leadership must act immediately act to clear this matter up.

in solidarity

Ross Dowson

Ross Dowson

Dowson is at present carrying a slander suit against the RCMP which has the support of a wide range of unionists, NDPers and civil libertarians identified with the Socialist Rights Defence Fund

50 Thorncliffe Ave.,
Toronto M4K 1V5 366-2059

contribution to St George Newsletter —1

Nov 79

by Ross Dowson

Oh yes, there was too, a message at our St George NDP October 18 "dialogue with the artistic community" billed as "Get your show off the ground- how these successful artists finance their work."

Of course Bill Howell of the Royal Canadian Air Farce handed out helpful hints on working the system and how to make it, And Don Cullen sang praises to his old Bohemian Embassy protege, Mich Podolsch [redacted] that have kept the wolves from bringing down some who, miracuously, have managed to struggle on to perform.

The message was one of repressed rage. The author of The Yellow Volkswagen, Elizabeth Woods, delivered it without a phrase from her poems, a line from her plays, or hardly a suggestion of her views. It was all there in her cool ,stark report on the price she has been paid for the last six or seven years work, paid for but unperformed plays, bought but unread poems, unpublished novels, numbing filing clerk jobs, performances before fidgetting school children, book peddling, miserly responses to her appeals to the watchdogs of government grants, and carefully screened welfare payments.

There was a message there for you, yes, you there, you Milton Acorn. Remember when you wrote the poem on Labor's Day of Protest that was read at the Toronto CLC rally, and I suggested another on Dr. Morgentaler's martyrdom -- one of the few times that you have written to "order", you said. Well, there was an order at the October 18

St George meeting that requires a bigger response than Woods' appeal that the copyright act be rewritten because otherwise we artists don't own anything and have nothing to sell. The marching order to a socialist democracy must be proclaimed.

Where the case stands as 1979 comes to a close

Federal Court Justice Campbell Grant will be ruling as to whether Ross Dowson's slander suit against the RCMP can proceed to trial, some two years after it was initiated, or whether to uphold the RCMP's attempt to have it dismissed as vexatious and frivolous. The entire day's hearing at the federal court in Toronto on November 6 was taken up by legal arguments presented by the RCMP's lawyer Pierre Genest and by Harry Kopyto on behalf of Dowson.

The case arose when Ontario Attorney-General McMurtry responded to the Ontario NDP leader's inquiry as to whether the RCMP had ever investigated the NDP. McMurtry issued a statement to the house, which was released to the press, containing a summary of information provided by RCMP officials to the effect that the NDP had been investigated, but not as such, rather its left-wing Waffle, which had been allegedly infiltrated by ex-Communists and the League for Socialist Action. The unnamed persons falling into the catch-all category of ex-Communists and the named LSA were labelled "subversive", as tending "to promote changes brought on by violent and undemocratic means."

Dowson, a leader of the now defunct LSA for most of its existence, a leading proponent of Trotskyism and now an activist in the NDP protested at the time of initiating his suit that the designation "subversive" makes one subject to prosecution under the Criminal Code, and renders one's views, no matter their appearance, as suspect to having a sinister aim. He claimed that such a slander is nothing less than an attempt to outlaw socialist currents of thought, and provide an excuse and cover up for RCMP activities fundamentally directed against the trade union movement, and its political arm, the NDP. It is not just myself, he said, but all those who are members and sympathizers of the LSA and ex-Communists, but the Waffle and the NDP itself which has been slandered by this RCMP interference in its internal affairs. What is at stake is the right to hold dissenting views and in particular the legitimacy and legality of socialist views.

This last summer, on the basis of information submitted by Dowson, a top officer admitted before the Royal Commission on the Confidentiality of Health Information that the RCMP had actually forged letters and planted them in the youth movement of the LSA in order to disrupt its operation. These same letters had been earlier presented as evidence in pretrial hearings of the Dowson suit. However the top RCMP officer, on lawyer Pierre Genest's advice, refused to answer any questions related to them.

In his legal argument before Judge Grant, the RCMP lawyer contended that the statement complained of concerned a matter of state made by officers of state acting in the course of their duties, and as such were protected by absolute privilege. Kopyto argued that absolute privilege applies only when officers of state are acting in accordance with their duties; that instead of truthfully answering the questions asked of it by the NDP leader, which would have revealed that the RCMP was involved in dirty tricks and numerous illegal acts, the statement was made in order to avoid revealing the RCMP's activities within the NDP.

While it is not known when Judge Grant will make his ruling it is probable that it will be challenged either way, and go before the Supreme Court of Canada. The RCMP, with the resources of the state at its disposal, has challenged an Ontario Court ruling favoring the Krever Commission that it reveal the names of RCMP informants who violated the confidentiality of Ontario Health Records. The Socialist Rights Defence Fund, which is supporting the Dowson suit, should it be confronted by an unfavorable ruling, will have to mobilize every bit of support possible, far beyond the support that it has already won, in order to carry its case to the Supreme Court. All possible financial aid should be sent to SRDF, 50 Thorncliffe Ave., Toronto M4K 1V5.

by Ross Dowson

Resolution on Justice

as adopted by the assembled delegates at the

New Democratic Party

Tenth Federal Convention

Toronto November 22-25, 1979

WHEREAS the past several years have revealed that the Royal Canadian Mounted Police through its security service operations has carried on a policy of systematically harassing, frustrating, destabilizing and disrupting the activities of completely legitimate dissident and protest organizations including provincial federations of labour such as the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour, interfering in various activities including the presidential elections within the Canadian Union of Public Employees, internal affairs of the B.C. and Ontario New Democratic Parties; and

WHEREAS it is a matter of public record that officials of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police have violated a wide variety of criminal code sections including those dealing with arson, break and enter, forgery, public mischief and assault; and

WHEREAS Canada remains unique within the Commonwealth countries in retaining sections within its Official Secrets Act and Federal Court Act which effectively gives the government the right to withhold from judicial and public scrutiny almost any document of its choosing under the excuse of "national security" considerations,

1. THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the new Democratic Party call for all operations of the security service of the RCMP which harass legal dissident organizations, the labour movement, the New Democratic Party and other political parties to be terminated immediately and that the full truth about such past harassment be made public,

2. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Democratic Party call for the immediate prosecution of all members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police who are alleged to have violated criminal law and that if their illegal actions are found to have been authorized by Solicitors-General that the rule of law apply and that such Solicitors-General not be considered immune from such prosecution,

3. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Federal Court Act be amended to remove the government's right to withhold government documents from judicial scrutiny solely on the basis of an affidavit filed by the government,

4. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Official Secrets Act be amended so that the right to public trial is affirmed and so that miscarriages of justice, such as that exemplified in the prosecution of Peter Treu, will no longer be possible.

5. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the party encourage support for a variety of efforts directed towards establishing the legitimacy of dissident, socialist and Marxist thought, including the efforts of Professor Andre Gunder Frank to obtain full travelling rights within Canada and the legal suit of Ross Dowson for slander against RCMP allegations that he and other Waffle supporters and members were subversive,

6. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Democratic Party support the implementation of a real Freedom of Information Act which includes the right of independent appeal, places the onus for proving why documents should not be released upon the government agency wishing secrecy, and provides very narrow and clearly defined exemptions,

7. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that locally elected Police Review Commissions be established and that these committees have the power to investigate complaints against the RCMP.

5. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the party encourage support for a variety of efforts directed towards establishing the legitimacy of dissident, socialist and Marxist thought, including the efforts of Professor Andre Gunder Frank to obtain full travelling rights within Canada and the legal suit of Ross Dowson for slander against RCMP allegations that he and other Waffle supporters and members were subversive,

Reprinted by the Social Rights Defence Fund, 50 Thorncliffe Ave., Toronto M4K 1V5

by Martha MacDonald

(has been submitted for publication)

The followimg contribution by a Halifax, N.S. reader. We were unable to publish it in our last issue for reasons of space. Since it was written, [redacted] with the passage by the N.S. Tory govern- ment of the so-called Michelin Bill, the Labor Relations Board ruled on February 13 that the two Michelin-owned plants in Nova Scotia, though separated by 200 miles, are interdependent -- in effect constitute a single bargaining unit -- and ballots cast by workers at the Granton plant, which the United Rubber Workers has been organizing over the past few years, will not be counted.

Prior to the passage of the bill the 70,000-member Nova Scotia Federation of Labor mounted a powerful opposition highlighted by a December 13 emergency convention attended by 350 delegates. While there was talk of general strike for January 7, the date for the implementation of an "action plan" came and went with no further action.

The truth is that organized labor and the NDP parliametary opposition has no strategy to direct and develop the militant opposition to the Michelin Bill and effectively counter the government's stand that underdeveloped Nova Scotia has no alternative but to accept low wages and poor labor conditions in order to entice such operations as the far-flung French imperialist Michelin empire. The Tories

(To continue)

carried the day with the argument that the man on the street wants jobs- "we were elected to create jobs," declared Premier Buchanan.

In our last issue we reproduced a document submitted to the Ontario NDP election planning committee by Sudbury area NDP leaders. It dealt with another side of the coin of underdevelopment- the process of "de-industrialization resulting when U.S. imperialist interests decided to perform less of their operations in Ontario. The Sudbury NDPers urge that the party not back off from dualism but call for "a great deal more public ownership .....Social policies without a fundamental restructuring of the Ontario economy is merely to treat symptoms while ignorning causes. It is to fight a losing battle for 'Capitalism with a human face.'" — The Editor BF

pick up body of article pf